58a-1944

MENACE OF PREJUDICE

Guardian, Boston, Mass., July 22, 1944

Those who are striving to promote unity and harmony among the varied groups of people in the United States will heartily agree with Harvard's eminent anthropologist, Dr. Hooten, that racial prejudice is "little more than a cloak to cover an apparently universal desire of selfish and morally low-grade people to dominate their fellow beings." Because racial prejudice is handy and valuable to the selfish and the crafty is why it has spread and become difficult to suppress. As long as it persists here it constitutes a menace to our democratic insitutions, for, as Dr. Hooten points out, "hatreds easily shift their emotional expression from race to nationality, to economic class, to religious affiliation." We have an example of such emotional tendency in the recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism. To be sure, though utterly disgraceful, they were but flurries of antagonism when compared with the mobbing, lynching and terrorizing of colored people to which anti-Semitism is a sequel. Apparently grown somewhat apathetic toward prejudice and violence against colored folk, perhaps because long continued, and trusting time to conquer those evils, the liberal forces of the country rushed forward with fiery denunciations of anti-Semitic propaganda. In full page advertisements in daily newspapers they charged that anti-Semitism was an "organized attack to destroy democracy before our eyes today." Nearly four thousand ordained Christian ministers banded themselves together to "smash anti-Semitism." Their fears were justified by the knowledge that the Jew in Europe was made a scapegoat as Hitler climbed to power. The rally to beat back the wave of anti-Semitism should serve to rouse a more general understanding of the danger inherent in racial and religious hatred. 7/22/44

The danger is definitely not Communistic but fascist. Communism springs from within a united people, as, for instance, Russia where common grievances welded the populace into a solid phalanx to overthrow the Czar and his satellites. Race prejudice is nonexistant in the Soviet Union. Here in the United State smoldering race prejudice, someimes erupting favors the growth of the fascist concept. It is a fair guage of a wide-spread will to dominate one's fellowmen. For race prejudice is employed to divide and delude, as when a Dixie demagogue tells his dupes something like this: "The most illiterate white inebriate is superior to the best educated 'nigra' in the world," the poor white "boobs" remain unconcerned about their illiteracy or their hookworm and they send him back to Congress with the greatest ease, for it takes only a two per cent vote to elect a Congressman in some southern districts. Nevertheless, the truth is that a "lily white" skin will admit the "boobs" to many a place from which their unbleached but well-bred neighbors will be barred.

There comes to mind Wendell Willkie's much-publicized definition of fascisim. Here it is: "FASCISM is an attitude of mind, an attitude which causes men to rule others by economic, military or political force or through prejudice. Such an attitude within our own borders is as serious a threat to freedom as is the attack withou. The desire to deprive some of our citizens of their rights—economic, civic or political—has the same basic motivation as actuates the Fascist mind when it seeks to dominate whole peoples and nations."

Educators Use Selective Service Records To Debunk "Supremacy"

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.

8-22-44

Facts Show Race Registrants Fared Better In Survey

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—That Negro Selective Service registrants in 10 Northern and border states showed up better in mental tests than did white registrants in 7 Southern States was revealed in a survey just published by a committee of Negro educators, who have beaten the race-baiters to the "punch" by disclosing the true facts before charges of racial inferiority are hurled at the Negro.

These statistics, taken from World War II records probably have Rep. Andrew May's face very red. Rep. May, who is from Kentucky, is chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, and was responsible for the Army junking 55,000 copies of the pamphlet "Races of Mankind," intended as an orientation piece for Army personnel, because the booklet pointed out that some Northern Negroes were superior to some Southern whites according to World War I Records.

8-22-44

The committee's report, published under the title "The Black and White of Rejections for Military Service; a Study of Rejections of Selective Service Registrants by Race. on Account of Educational and Mental Deficiencies," shows a direct relationship between rates of rejection and the per capita expenditures for schooling in each state.

REJECTION RATE NOTED

The rejection rate for Negroes, according to the study, ranged from 2,4 per cent of the total number of Negro registrants examined in New York City and 2.5 per cent in Illinois, to 31.1 per cent in Mississippi and 43 per cent in South Carolina. 8-22-44

In New York City, the per capita expenditures for education is $157. In Mississippi, only $7 is spent on the education of each Negro pupil. The rate of rejection of whites in South Carolina is nearly 4 times as high as the rate of rejection of Negroes in Illinois.

POINTS OUT 4 FACTS

The report uses the occasion to point out four reasons why the equalization of educational, opportunities should be handled on a national basis. Such inequalities, results (1) in a reduced reservoir of manpower for the armed deferment of a man in Georgia for illiteracy leads to the drafting of a skilled worker or father in New York; (3) in reduced efficiency of the military service; and (4) in the reduced social efficiency of large elements in the population and consequently of the Nation itself. People who are not sufficiently competent to participate in the war effort are likewise unable to make their contribution to a peace-time economy. 8-22-44

The committee included Dr. Howard H. Long, assistant superintendent of schools in Washington, D. C.; Martin D. Jenkins, associate professor of education, Howard University; Francis A. Gregory, principal of Armstrong High School, Washington, D. C.; Jane E. McCallister, professor of education, Miner Teachers College; and Charles H. Thompson, dean of the Howard University Graduate School.

Are Jews Negroes 1

Mirror—St. Louis, Mo.

10-27-44

(The following article was written by Vernon B. Williams, Jr. Supervisor in the Commercial Department of Illinois Bell Telephone Co., Chicago, who holds a B.S. degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an A.M. from the U. of Chicago. He spent more than two years in research on the subject of racial identity.)

PART I

Who are "Negroes"? What is the "Negro Race"? Just what is meant by the term "Negro." Then too, on what meat has this our "Negro" fed that he has grown so despised? What is there about this man that awakens in every man, more especially himself, the awarenesss that he is not to be treated as other men? Certainly there must be some reason. How often do we become interested in a man. or in a movement, only to lose that interest on finding out that the man is a "Negro" or that the movement is a "Negro" movement? Do we not unconsciously. perhaps, steel ourselves when we encounter other groups because we feel that they feel that we are inferior? Could that be one of the factors responsible for our excelling, as individuals—this pressure under which we labor—this handicap with which we enter the race?

At any rate these questions are worthy of consideration. What or who are "Negroes"? We are all agreed that they are the descendants of the slaves brought to these United States beginning in 1619. We say to the United States because until very, very recently this was the only place in the Western hemisphere that they were so called.

10-27-44

What is the "Negro" race? Actually there is no such thing! Is it logical for the name of a race to be changed to that which is applied at a later date to a small part of its people? Then how can the name which was applied to that part of this race of men who were removed from their borders, beginning in 1441, change the name of that race?

You may be interested in the origin of the term, "Negros" as it was originally applied. In 1441, some Portuguese sailors stole ten natives, and transported them to Lisbon, Portugal. That was the beginning of the slave-trade, as we know it, for down through the centuries the Ethiopians and Arabians had trafficked in slaves and victorious tribes and nations had been following the practice of reducing the vanquished in battle to slavery. These Portuguese called the commodity they were handling "Negros," because of the pigment of their skins, little dreaming—or caring that they were naming a "race." Consider too, the hatred, the contempt, the depth of bitterness attendant with that christening. Consider too, if you please, how cheap the lives of these men and women were held in the minds of their traffickers. Often, when faced with the threats of being overtaken by one of the many vessels which later policed the seas, an entire cargo of these unfortunate individuals would be forced overboard, thereby destroying the evidence..

10-27-44

Racial Differences

Afro American

Theme of Meet

Baltimore, Md.

DETROIT (ANP) — "There is little difference between a black pygmy and a blonde Scandinavian," declared Prof. Faye Cooper Cole, head of the anthropology department of the University of Chicago, Friday, at a conference of the Intercultural Council of Southeastern Michigan. 4-15-44

At the meeting, attended by more than 1500 educators, church and civic leaders, three authorities on anthropology, psychology and sociology presented the findings of their branches of education on racial differences.

According to Dr. Franz Alexander of the Institute of Psychoanalysis, Chicago, the basic requirement in improving human relationships is to become "familiar with each other."

"Race" Used Too Loosely

Professor Cole blamed the loose use of the term, "race," for many human ills. He cited the words "semitic" and "Aryan" as definite and deliberate distortions of scientific terminology for political or prejudicial purposes. 4-15-44

Father John F. Cronin, sociologist of St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, said that "a minority group can be integrated into the community by one of three philosophies, assimilation, or cultural monims; segregation, or cultural pluralism; or some compromise, such as cultural democracy.

"The third," he said, "discriminates, keeping the valuable and essential notes in various cultures, and at the same time promoting basic and fundamental community ideals."

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UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Tribune- Phila., Pa.

BY E. WASHINGTON RHODES

3-18-44

Explode Racial Superiority Myth

THE War Department has banned the distribution of the pamphlet "The Races of Mankind." The 55,000 copies which had been purchased for distribution among soldiers will gather dust on the shelves of the War Department because the pamphlet tells the truth about racial superiority bunk.

The authors of "The Races of Mankind" explode with scientific accuracy the myth of white or any other kind of racial superiority. Congressman Andrew J. May of Kentucky, forgot all about the war when he discovered that the booklet said that northern Negroes, living under better conditions, are intellectually superior to underprivileged southern whites.

The blustering Congressman "hit the ceiling" of the Capitol dome. The book's accuracy cannot be questioned The Congressman, however, cares nothing abouth truth. He objects to the booklet because it attacks with deadly aim the pet theories of those who dwell in perpetual ignorance. 3-18-44

The authors of "The Races of Mankind" proved as a scientific fact that all mankind have a common origin; that all the peoples of the earth are a single family; that there is no such thing as a pure race; that all people are mixed up. Why do Congressman May and others of his ilk object to American soldiers reading the truth about racial superiority bunk? Why does the USO refuse to permit the pamphlet to be placed in its reading rooms? Why did the War Department heed the sinister voice of Congressman May and his committee?

The answer is crystal clear—the myth of racial superiority can exist only where the truth concerning race is unknown.

Army Drops Race Equality Book; Denies May's Stand Was Reason

Times-New York, N.Y.

3-6-44

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, March 5—Representative Andrew J. May of Kentucky said today that a threat by the House Military Committee to "expose the motive behind this book" had blocked Army distribution of a pamphlet which he said described Northern Negroes as the equals in intelligence of Southern white men.

The committee's action, Mr. May, its chairman, said, came after it was learned that 55,000 copies of the pamphlet, "The Races of Mankind," had been purchased by the War Department for distribution in connection with Army orientation courses, following refusal of the United Service Organizations to allow it to be circulated in USO centers.

The War Department said, however, that it had been decided not to use the pamphlet before the committee started its investigation because some of its material was regarded as inadequate.

A spokesman explained that the book was not intended for soldiers in the orientation courses but for use of officer-instructors as background material to help counteract the Nazi theory of a super-race. The Army's copies are in a warehouse pending further action on their disposition. 3-6-44

Mr. May said that sponsors of the pamphlet described it as prepared to promote tolerance by teaching the fundamental unity of races and contending that economic differences were largely responsible for racial differences. It was published, he said, by a New York City publishing company and prepared by Ruth F. Benedict.

The publisher is the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., of New York City. Professor Benedict was assisted by Dr. Gene Weltfis, also of the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University.

Mr. May's anger was roused by an assertion which he said the pamphlet made that a survey showed that the average Negro in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut ranked on an intellectual level with the average white man in Kentucky, Arkansas and Mississippi. 3-6-44

After the USO banned the pamphlet, Mr. May asserted, the CIO War Relief Committee promoted its distribution and the Army obtained 55,000 copies. Army spokesmen, he said, told the committee that distribution had been held up because some of the material was subject to misinterpretation.

"It won't be distributed by the Army," he said. "If it is, we will have plenty to say and it will be said right on the floor of the House It has no place in the Army program."

While no further committee action is contemplated, Mr. May added, "we intend to keep an eye open to see that this book does not go out to our soldiers through War Department channels. If it does, somebody is going to have to do plenty of explaining."

Dr. Gene Weltfish, member of the anthropology department of Columbia University, co-author with Professor Ruth F. Benedict, Columbia anthropologist, of "The Races of Mankind," said last night that the pamphlet was published by the Public Affairs Committee, a public service group sponsored by many prominent citizens, and financed by a great from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. 3-6-44

Dr. Weltfish denied that the pamphlet "contended that economic differences are largely responsible for racial differences," pointing out that no scientific explanation of racial differences such as skin pigmentation was given. What the pamphlet did contend was that economic and educational advantage made a difference in measurement of mentality by intelligence tests, and that such tests showed no difference between the races.

The survey which aroused the Southern Representative'sire, she said, were reports on the findings of intelligence tests made by Prof. Robert S. Woodworth, an internationally known psychologist.

"I hope Mr. May does bring the matter to the floor of the House," she said. "The pamphlet does nothing more than present the biological and psychological material in support of an ancient principle that 'all men are created equal,' set out in the Bible, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and it is time that Southern advocates of racial inequality should be obliged to defend their stand."

The pamphlet was not forced on the soldiers but was included among other materials of which they had a choice, and was obtained by the War Department after the soldiers asked for it, she said.

Professor Benedict is in Washington for the Winter.

Hats Off!

PM- New York, N.Y.

Hats off twice today—to Drs. Gene Weltfish and Ruth F. Benedict of Columbia University's anthropology department. They are the authors of the pamphlet, The Races of Mankind, *printed, in part, in two pages in yesterday's PM. This pamphlet (you can buy it for 10 cents at the Public Affairs Committee, 30 Rockefeller Plaza) demolishes the fascist idea that there are "differences" in races, showing that there is no such difference when economic and educational advantages are equal. The two authors took a year to complete the research and writing of the pamphlet. Dr. Benedict, a graduate of Vassar and Columbia, a veteran of 17 years' teaching experience up on Morningside Heights, is now working for the OWI in Washington. Dr. Weltfish, a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia, has been teaching at the latter institution for the last 10 years.*

3-8-44

Races Of Mankind

Post- Washington, D.C.

In mid-January the Army ordered 55,000 copies of pamphlet called *The Races of Mankind*, published by the Public Affairs Committee, a nonprofit educational organization. The authors are two distinguished Columbia University anthropologists, Prof. Ruth Benedict and Dr. Gene Weltfish. In ordering this pamphlet the Army aimed at giving the officers material with which to combat Nazi race theories. A better instrument for this purpose could scarcely have been found. Yet the Army has now changed its mind about distributing the pamphlets and has consigned them indefinitely to a warehouse. Unfortunately, the announcement of this change of mind came on the heels of an intemperate objection to the pamphlet by Chairman May of the House Military Affairs Committee. 3-9-44

Congressman May's ire was roused by a section of the pamphlet which makes it clear that intelligence is not a function of race but of economic conditions and education. Intelligence tests conducted among members of the AEF in 1917, the pamphlet reports, showed higher median scores for Northern Negroes than for Southern whites. As the authors put it, "Negroes with better luck after they were born got higher scores than whites with less luck." Negroes in general made a lower score than whites. But "Northerners, *black and white*, had higher scores than Southerners, *black and white* . . . The differences did not arise because people were from the North or the South, or because they were white or black, but because of differences in income, education, cultural advantages and other opportunities."

This is a finding which, no matter how it pinches the prejudices of the gentleman from Kentucky, is, nevertheless, an indisputable truth. To prevent members of our armed forces from learning it is to foster among them the same dangerous notions of racial superiority against which they are supposed to be fighting. It happens that they are engaged in a coalition war in partnership with all the races of mankind. They can win an enduring peace only if they understand the basic premise of our own society—that all men are related members of the human family.

3-9-44

Scientists Refute Rep. May On Mental Status of Races

PM - New York, N.Y.

—By Albert Deutsch—

The amazing capitulation of the U. S. Army in halting the distribution among soldiers of the pamphlet, *Races of Mankind*, points up the extent to which a small minority of Southern race bigots are succeeding in stamping their private prejudices on the public policy of the Nation. This question of minority rule is not an academic one; it vitally affects the nature, course, human costs and

outcome of the war. 3-7-44

Men like Rep. Andrew J. May of Kentucky, who coerced the War Dept. into withdrawing the pamphlet, fail to see the inner meaning of this war. They seem to be content to let Hitlerism remain in the saddle, here as well as in Germany, whatever the military outcome is. If Hitlerism triumphs, we shall have waged this war in vain, even though it ends with the death or imprisonment of Hitler and his immediate satellites.

The spurious dogma of race superiority is the very kernel and essence of Hitlerism. The Nazis preach it under the name of "Aryan supremacy." The Japs officially sanction the myth in reverse form as the racial superiority of the Japs over the "decadent" white race. Rep. May and his kind are at one with our enemies in this vital respect: they all cling fast to the anti-human, anti-scientific doctrine that divides the world into superior and inferior races.

Contempt for truth is one of the main characteristics of the race bigots who seek to freeze the largest racial minority in the land into a permanent status of second-class citizenship. They do not dare look a fact in the face. The truth is that there is no scientific sanction for the doctrine of "white supremacy" that rules race relations in the South. The pamphlet tells that truth, plainly and dispassionately. It was prepared by two scientists who place broad truth above narrow prejudice. 3-7-44

The pamphlet, *Races of Mankind* (Public Affairs Committee, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, N. Y. C., 10 cents) was prepared and distributed as a contribution to the war effort. It promotes unity by providing people in civilian and military life with simple, scientifically sound facts that lead to mutual understanding and tolerance.

Rep. May voiced strongest objection to the statement in the pamphlet that Negroes in four Northern States ranked higher in AEM intelligence tests during World War I than did the whites of four Southern States. The authors did not say, as Rep. May implies, that all Northern Negroes scored higher than all Southern whites. They did point out that intelligence test scores are intimately related with educational opportunities and environmental conditions, and that when the Negro is given an equal chance it is reflected in higher IQ's.

No American scientist has done more research in the mental traits of races than Prof. Otto Klineberg of Columbia University. Here's his answer to Rep. May's bigoted attack: 3-7-44

"Investigations that we have made do not support the notion that any race is innately more intelligent than any other race, or that the white race is mentally superior to the Negro race.

"Negro Americans as a whole have scored lower in intelligence tests than white Americans. But these scores result in large measure from many environmental factors having nothing to do with innate ability. We have demonstrated, for instance, that Southern Negro children who come North show improved intelligence test ratings proportionate to their length of residence in a superior environment."

Negro lad has IQ enough for two

PM - Picture News
New York, N.Y. 4-9-44

AT THE TIME that 12-year-old Yale sophomore burst into the papers, we got a letter from Mrs. Araminta Work telling us of her 12-year-old son, Craig, who, she said, had an IQ of 190.8, which officially makes him a genius plus.

Mrs. Work wrote that she wanted to get Craig a scholarship in a good school. He'd been offered a few, but on the condition that he call himself South American. "We refused. We want him accepted as a Negro," wrote Mrs. Work.

We visited Mrs. Work, a defense worker, in her tiny, poorly ventilated room in the Village. She was wearing coarse blue slacks and thick-soled shoes, and as we talked, she darned several pairs of Craig's woolen socks. Mrs. Work is a white woman—pale, blond and rather plump.

She told us she had married Craig's father in 1930, when, as a young Negro social worker, he came up from Nashville, Tenn., to study at Columbia University.

When Craig was about four, and it was apparent that he was extremely gifted intellectually, psychologists warned Mr. and Mrs. Work that he might be a problem.

"We've tried to bring him up so that no one would know he is a genius, least of all himself," Mrs. Work told us.

She also said, "From the age of one until he was eight, we drummed into him the realization that he is a Negro and important only in the possibility of his social usefulness. That indoctrination worked, and now he's on his own." 4-9-44

At that point Craig came into the room, throwing off his sheepskin jacket as he came. He pulled his plaid wool socks higher over his corduroy pants and sat down at a small table next to the window. He started to glue a wing on one of his *Battle Planes of America*.

We asked Craig if he had decided on a career. He said yes, psychiatry.

"I guess I was nine when I decided that," he said. "My mother was once a social worker, and she told me something about it. I want to help people who need help in such matters, people with mental afflictions. I want especially to help Negroes, because the Negroes in the world today are having a rather hard time of it. They need help most, because they have the greatest mental strain."

Craig picked up a towel and twisted it around his hands. We asked him if he thought that some of that mental strain might be eliminated through economic and social betterment.

Craig Work, who has an IQ of 190.8, wants to be a psychiatrist. (*Story above.*)

He doesn't expect speed

"It would be quite a feat," he said with a laugh, "if you could bring on a new economic order in which no one would discriminate against Negroes." He snapped the towel like a whip. "But you can't change things overnight. I believe in social reforms, and in the meantime, I'd like to do what I can to help solve problems that Negroes have now."

Literature is Craig's favorite subject. He is building a library of Negro literature and is particularly fond of *Golden Slippers*, an anthology of Negro poetry and folk songs. He likes the poetry of Langston Hughes and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, but his favorite poem is *Mountain Whippoorwill* by Steven Vincent Benet. 4-9-44

"It's about a fiddling contest at the fair," he said. "One of the contestants calls his fiddle the 'whippoorwill.' The music comes hot and strong. 'He fiddled high and he fiddled low.' He fiddled symphonies and everything. When he stopped, it was all very quiet, and he figured he had lost. Then 'all hell broke loose in Georgia,' and he realized he had won."

In more ways than one, Craig is something of a young Pushkin, the Russian poet who was part Negro. The poetry Craig writes is about his experiences at school and in the forest nearby. Here is part of one, which he calls *In the Forest*.

In the forest life is stirring.
The lark pours out his joy in his beautiful song.
The sparrows chirp happily as they hop about among the trees.
The forest is joyful.
A little fawn peers through the bushes
A sparrow-hawk darts over its head
The fawn leaps back
And stands trembling.
It lets out a pitiful bleat, stands
Listens; and then wanders off.

Mrs. Work has always had to face a school problem for Craig. When he was six, some Detroit public school teachers forced the boy to read the *Sixth Grade Reader* to the older children and teach them geography. At the moment, there is the problem of wanting Craig to attend a school that will meet his needs. But that costs lots of money, and Mrs. Work doesn't have lots of money. 4-9-44

58a-144

The Negro in the United States

New Republic-New York, N.Y.

Characteristics of the American Negro, edited by Otto Klineberg. New York: Harper and Brothers. 409 pages. $4. 3-27-44

Otto Klineberg has done an excellent piece of work, editing, assembling and giving unity to an assortment of monographs arising from research under the Carnegie Corporation's project for this, the final volume of "The Negro in American Life" series. Starting with an article by Guy B. Johnson on "The Stereotype of the American Negro," for which the author draws materials from general and scientific writings of both Negroes and non-Negroes, the volume may be regarded as an attempt to examine some of the crucial factors in this stereotype.

Klineberg's two articles bring up to date studies of racial differences as indicated by tests of intelligence and personality, with which those who had read "Race Differences" (1935) are already familiar. The study of "race" attitudes, by Eugene L. Horowitz, embodies much hitherto unpublished material, including the results of a Fortune survey conducted specifically for the Carnegie study. Part V, by Louis Wirth and Herbert Goldhamer, deals with "The Hybrid and the Problem of Miscegenation." A statistical analysis of mental disease among American Negroes, by Benjamin Malzberg of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, concludes the volume.

"Characteristics of the American Negro" provides powerful ammunition in the scientific attack on racist dogmas. The differences between Negroes and whites with respect to intelligence, personality traits and incidence of mental disease indicated by Klineberg and Malzberg are demonstrated to stem from unfavorable social and economic life-situations which handicap the Negro. It might be said that, since the hypothesis of innate racial inferiority is discredited in the minds of those who have taken the trouble to acquaint themselves with the facts, this piling up of evidence against the idea of inborn Negro inferiority would seem to be unnecessary. Yet the sections on attitudes toward race, and on miscegenation, provide ample evidence that most Americans have not troubled to learn facts. Horowitz's study indicates how strong an element in North American culture race prejudice really is; fed, as he shows, by psychological maladjustments which are the correlates of anxieties themselves stemming from American economic and social patterns. It is because of this that the persons likely to be without prejudices are those who, for one reason or another, have adopted nonconformist attitudes in general. 3-27-44

The article by Wirth and Goldhamer, though principally a sketch of earlier and fairly accessible materials, includes as an original contribution a study of interracial marriage. An unflattering light is thrown on certain "Characteristics of the American White" by the authors' analysis of anti-miscegenation laws in thirty of our forty-eight states which seem largely based on considerations having no validity for modern genetics.

A slight reservation might be entered as to the aptness of the title. Even in terms of the list compiled by Johnson in the first section, only a few characteristics of the Negro are considered. Moreover, the "American" Negro discussed by the monographs is actually only the Negro in the United States. It should be remembered that a consideration of South American and West Indian Negroes—also "Americans"—would in all likelihood give us a somewhat different list of characteristics. The work is interesting as well as scholarly, however, and deals in a timely fashion with one aspect of an outstanding sore spot in American life. Klineberg's concluding statement is worth quoting:

> As a part of the American people, Negroes partake of the psychological quality of all Americans. What differences there are appear to depend on existing discrepancies in the opportunities offered to the two groups. When these discrepancies will have been completely eliminated, there probably will be no further reason to write a psychological volume on "The Characteristics of the American Negro."

RICHARD A. WATERMAN

How to Class the Races

Afro American-Baltimore, Md.

3-4-44

Wherever Races of the World Live Together They Marry and Have Children; Not Only America, but All the World Is a Mixture of Red, Black, White, Brown and Yellow People

By PROFESSOR RUTH BENEDICT and DR. GENE WELTFISH, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University. (Copyright by Public Affairs Committee)

(EDITOR'S NOTE—The AFRO is reprinting the fifth installment in a series from the controversial pamphlet, "Races of Mankind," which the USO bars from its centers. Previous chapters have concerned the common origin of all peoples of the world, and how races differ and are classified.)

As far back in time as the scientist can go, he finds proof that animals and men moved about in the world. There were different kinds of animals and many of them went great distances.

But wherever they went, the different kinds could not breed together. Even a fox and a wolf cannot mate with each other. But whenever groups of people have traveled from one place to another and met other people, some of them have married and had children.

At first men traveled by foot. It took them a long time, but they got almost all over the world that way. Long ago when people knew only how to make tools out of stone, the Cro-Magnons lived in Europe. 3-4-44

Waves of migration came in from the east and the southeast. These new people settled down, bred with the Cro-Magnons, and their children were the ancestors of modern Europeans. Since then there have been many migrations from Asia and northern Africa.

Rode Horseback

Later, men tamed the horse. They built carts and rode horseback. They built great boats, which were rowed by hundreds of men. They could go faster and travel farther than ever before.

The Phoenicians went on trading expeditions through the Mediterranean. The Romans went to Spain and up along the coast to

antagonisms between ruler and ruled and between the exploiter and the exploited.

Intermixture Unharmful

The movements of peoples over the face of the earth inevitably produce race mixture and have produced it since before history began. No one has been able to show that this is necessarily bad.

It has sometimes been a social advantage, sometimes a running sore threatening the health of the whole society. It can obviously be made a social evil, and, where it is so, sensible people will avoid contributing to it by grieving if their children make such alliances. 3-4-44

We must live in the world as it is. But, as far as we know, there are no immutable laws of nature that make racial intermixture harmful.

the British Isles. Then the Huns swept in from Asia through central Europe and destroyed the Roman Empire. The Tarters came in from the east. They threatened to conquer all of Europe but were defeated in one of the greatest cavalry engagements of all time.

The Mohammedans captured all of North Africa; they took Spain and went up into France across the Pyrenees. Thousands of colored slaves have been brought into Europe at various times. Where are they now?

People have come and gone in Europe for centuries. Wherever they went, some of them settled down and left children. Small groups were absorved into the total population. Always the different races moved about and intermarried. 3-4-44

Not True for Race

We are used to thinking of Americans as mixed. All of us have ancestors who came from regions far apart. But we think that the English are English and the French are French. This is true for the nationality, just as we are all Americans. But it is not true for their race.

The Germans have claimed to be a pure German race, but no European is a pure anything. A country has a population. It does not have a race. If you go far enough back in the populations of Europe you are apt to find all kinds of ancestors: Cro-Magnons, Slavs, Mongols, Africans, Celts, Saxons and Teutons.

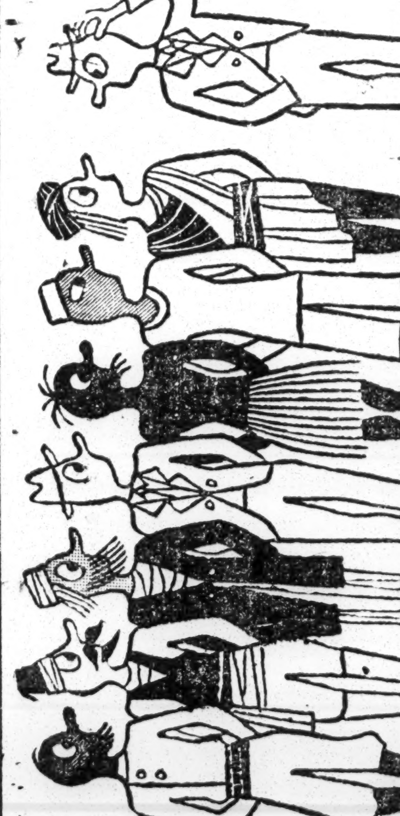
It is true, though, that people who live closer together intermarry more frequently. This is why there are places like Alsace-Lorraine, where Germans and French have intermarried so much that the children cannot tell whether they are German or French, and so call themselves Alsatians.

Germans, Czechs Intermarried

Czechoslovakia included old Bohemia, which had a population of Nordics and semi-Asiatics and Slavs. After World War I, the Germans and Czechs along the border between the two countries intermarried so often that the Germans of this section got to look like Czechs and the Czechs began to speak German. But this did not make the two countries love each other.

People of every European nation have racial brothers in other countries, often ones with which they are at war. If at any one moment you could sort into one camp all the people in the world who were most Mediterranean, no mystic sense of brotherhood would unite them. 3-4-44

The old fights would break out again unless social conditions were changed—the old hatred between national groups, the old


3-4-44

THERE IS NO JEWISH "RACE"

Race Superiorities and Inferiorities

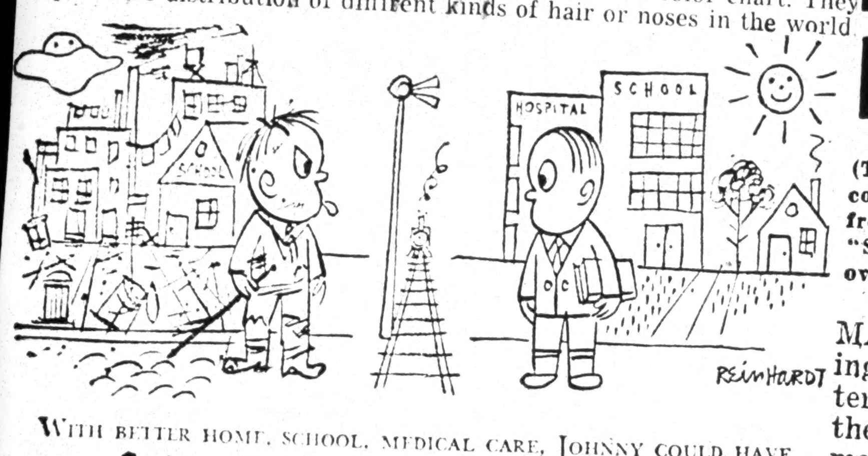
Afro American — Baltimore, Md.

Ability Only Criterion for Superiority; People Not Born Better Than Others, But May Have Better Opportunities After Birth

Afro American — Baltimore, Md.

(This is the sixth installment reprinted from "Races of Mankind," by Prof. Ruth Benedict and Dr. Gene Weltfish, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University)

When they study racial differences, scientists investigate the way by which particular traits are passed on from parents to children. They measure head form and identify skin color on a color chart. They map out the distribution of diffirent kinds of hair or noses in the world.



WITH BETTER HOME, SCHOOL, MEDICAL CARE, JOHNNY COULD HAVE BEEN JIMMY.

3-11-44

Scientists recognize that these differences do not themselves show better or worse qualities in peoples, any more than bay horses are better than black ones.

They know that to prove that a bay horse is superior to a black one, you have to do more than identify its skin color on a color chart; you have to test its abilities.

Science, therefore, treats human racial differences as facts to be studied and mapped. It treats racial superiorities as a separate field of investigation; it looks for evidence. When a Nazi says: "I am a blue-eyed Aryan and you are a non-Aryan," he means: "I am superior and you are inferior."

Evidence Needed

The scientist says: "Of course. You are a fair-haired, long-headed, tall North European (the anthropological term is Nordics, not Aryans), and I am a dark-haired, round-headed, less tall South European. But on what evidence do you base your claim to be superior? That is quite different."

Race prejudice turns on this point of inferiority and superiority. The man with race prejudice says of a man of another race: "No matter who he is, I don't have to compare myself with him. I'm superior anyway. I was born that way."

It is the study of racial superiorities and inferiorities, therefore, which is most important in race relations. This investigation, to have any meaning at all, must get evidence for and against the man who says, "I was born that way. My race is proof that I am the better man."

Inherited Traits

It must be an investigation of what is better and what is worse in traits passed down by inheritance. Such traits are, by definition, racial.

The first thing we want to know scientifically is what traits a man is born with and what things happen to him after he is born.

If he is lucky after he is born, he will have good food, good care, good education, and a good start in life; these are not things of which he can boast: "I was born that way."

3-11-44

Speech Not Racial

A man learns the language he speaks. If he'd been born of Nordic parents and brought up from infancy in China, he'd speak Chinese like a native and have as much difficulty learning Swedish when he was grown as if he'd been born of Chinese parents.

He wasn't "born" to speak Cockney English or to speak with a Brooklyn accent; he speaks the way people around him speak. It's not a racial trait; he didn't inherit it.

> **WAR DEPARTMENT WON'T DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS**
>
> The House Military Committee threatened to block distribution of the pamphlet, "Races of Mankind," to soldiers.
>
> The War Department says it has 55,000 copies in a warehouse and will not distribute them.
>
> 3-11-44
>
> Congressman Mays's (D.,Ky.) objection to the pamphlet is that it cites army tests of World War I, which shows that Northern colored people are smarter than Southern whites.

'Master Race' Is Blasted

Informer — Houston, Tex.

7-22-44

(The following story of a Negro combat unit in France is an excerpt from the July 13, 1944 edition of "Stars and Stripes," U. S. Army overseas publication).

A U. S. ARTILLERY COMMAND POST, France—Showing utter contempt for "master race" divisions facing them, U. S. Negro artillerymen, firing 155-mm howitzers, are blasting German installations and troop concentrations, pounding to pieces the Nazi theory of "inferior" and "superior" races.

First Negro combat artillery team to fight in this sector, this outfit is the howitzer member of a four-unit artillery group that includes a battalion of 105s and two of 155-mm Long Toms.

They make music horrible to enemy ears, but to U. S. doughboys of the infantry division bein directly supported by their fire it is the sweetest song this side.

"Whatcha Know Joe?"

A few weeks ago these were the kinds who enlivened English villages when they "swung" cadence drill on training hikes to the tune of "Whatcha Know Joe?" Now, when these cannoneers join in a group "serenade" the rhythm is not as regular, but Yanks in observation posts on the line report that the Jerries are dancing to it. Results: shattered tanks, wrecked 88s, smashed fortifications, dead Nazis.

"It's a hell of a different tune," observed Technician Fifth Grade Joe Hodge, a survey section man from Detroit, "and we know those Germans up there don't like it a bit."

7-22-44

The battalion's uniqueness far transcends the fact that it's a Negro combat unit. Its firing record, accuracy and output are acclaimed from corps artillery headquarters to the foxhole —pitted ridges of Hill 122 where muddy infantrymen fight.

A fabulous amount of intricate mathematics— plotting and computing —precedes the sending of fire directions to the individual batteries. Armed with this data, computers Staff Sergeant Lawrence E. Innis, of New York City; Private Van Q. White of East Orange, New Jersey; Private Otis B. Walker, of Passaic, New Jersey, and Technician Fifth Grade Charles A. Peterson, of Plainfield, New Jersey, went to work with their graphical firing tables (slide rules to non-artillery folk) and quickly made their calculations.

A little later the guns spoke their thunderous language, and the Germans miles away caught its meaning. The end of the mission came when the number one man of the 10-man crew pulled the lanyard and the battery computer at battalion called out "Charlie on the way."

Important Joes

7-22-44

Soon it all comes down to where 12 Joes in the unit, known as number one men, pull down and out on their lanyards, sending the projectiles screaming through space. Very important Joes, these number one men. By yanking on their cords, primers set off the powder charges which force the shells on the long trip to the target. They receive the biggest part of the concussion.

To number one an Private First Class Arthur Broadnax, of Autaugaville, Alabama, went the honor of pulling the lanyard for the first round fired by Negro Artillery against the Nazis. Number one men seldom go beyond private first class, but look upon their jobs with immense pride. One number one man in Baker Battery, Private First Class Robert Lee, from Montgomery, Alabama, refused a chance to become a gunner and go up in rank.

"I want to pull that lanyard and watch the shells go off," was his explanation. Other lanyard pullers in the outfit:

7-22-44

Private Horace Jacob, of Kaplan, Louisiana; Private T. J. Deramus, of Montgomery, Alabama; Private Grady Clay of Tatum, Texas; Private Eddie J. Lynn, of Edwards, Massachusetts; Private First Class Tom Thomas, of Stanford, Connecticut; Private First Class Willie Cannon, of Columbus, Georgia; Private First Class Adam Tinnell, of Waxahachie, Texas; Private First Class John Trin, of aBteford, Mississippi; Private First Class Jim Leatherwood of Tupelo, Mississippi; and Private First Class John Battle, of Wadley, Alabama.

Lt. Colonel Harmond S. Kelsey, the units commander, knowns artillery, having been an artillery officer since 1918. Of his Negro cannoneers he says proudly: "I'll put them against any artillery outfit over here."

"There Should Be No Inferior Races"

World — Memphis, Tenn.

ALMOST reaching the height of logic, prophecy and oratory attained by that great humanitarian the war president of the 60's, Abraham Lincoln, these were the burning words in the valedictory of Henry Agard Wallace in one of the most dramatic feats ever enacted in this country—as he called down the fires from heaven on the great concourse assembled at the Democratic National Convention.

Wallace was at the turn of the road. Here he had come, heeding the Macedonian call of those who sponsored his nomination for what might have been eventually the presidency of the United States. Wallace bore no caution of the timed and timid politician, with a gauge set for the catching of votes from any way they might arrive. He had been literally thrown to the wolves and he was in the tragic fight for his life.

This, the greatest hour of his career had come. The gallant young leader, in his seconding address of the nomination of President Roosevelt, literally rocked the old stadium with his liberal pronouncements and his championship of people denied a fair chance for making a living.

8-4-44

This was quite a departure from the usual proceeding of candidates seeking office in a party that has seen four long years of civil war against the emancipation of a race and responsible for the tying on every conceivable subterfuge to keep honest taxpaying citizens away from the polls.

A new day has dawned for the Democratic party. At last, with such young minds as Wallace and Pepper, the shackles of intolerance and political bondage will be swept from the councils of the party.

Here truly the occasion met the stateman. The statesman rose to the height of the opportunity and millions of despised folk thrilled to the hurl of his dynamic challenge.

Surely, Elijah, the Tishbite, was not grander when on Mount Carmel, he called down the fires of God on the iniquities of Baal; was not grander when in burning Greece he scourged a Cataline; neither was Luther more profound when he defied the Pope, nailed his thesis on the Wittenburgh church door and hurled the banner of the Reformation to the world! 8-4-44

While Wallace went down with his ship, he did not go down ingloriously—he will not be unsung.

"The people will awaken and listen to hear,
The hurrying hoofs of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere."

58a-1944

Lindbergh on Racial Aviation:

PM - New York, N.Y. 3-19-44

To me, one of the articles of most "lasting interest" in the *Reader's Digest* was *Aviation, Geography and Race*, written by Charles A. Lindbergh for the issue of November, 1939.

Lindbergh called aviation "a tool specially shaped for Western hands, a scientific art which others only copy in a mediocre fashion, another barrier between the teeming millions of Asia, and the Grecian inheritance of Europe—one of those priceless possessions which permit the White race to live at all in a pressing sea of Yellow, Black and Brown."

Lindbergh branded the war as one in which "the White race is bound to lose . . . which will reduce the strength and destroy the treasures of the White race." To build "our White ramparts again," he concluded, we must "guard against our heritage from Mongol, Persian and Moor" and "hold back the infiltration of inferior blood . . . let us not commit racial suicide."

In my opinion, this is neither science, democracy nor good sense. You can name it.

Wallace has said that Lindbergh's contribution was water over the dam and he remarked, when I mentioned it: 3-19-44

"We don't claim to believe everything we print. Anyway, Lindbergh was a prominent public figure at the time."

Doesn't circulation high in the millions demand greater responsibility and more careful authority than that?

The Globe Trotter

Daily World Atlanta, Ga

By Cliff Mackay

Ostrich - Like Brother May

3-19-44

LIKE AN OSTRICH attempting to hide itself by burying its head in the sand, Representative Andrew J. May, Kentucky's gift to the white supremacy clique disgracing America, foolishly believes that he can halt the spread of truth simply by locking up from Army officers 55,000 copies of the scientific pamphlet, "Races of Mankind."

If it were not tragic in view of all America has proclaimed it is fighting for, the stupid actions of the chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, would be about the most humorous incident emerging thus far from this global war.

"It won't be distributed by the Army," defiantly asserted Brother May. "If it is, we will have plenty to say and it will be said right on the floor of the House. It has no place in the Army program."

DWELLS IN THE PAST

All of which reveals that men whose thinking is as perverted as Mr. May's have no business sitting in Congress. All of these months of war, all of the billions of dollars that are being spent to prosecute it, and all of thousands of young men who have sacrificed their lives in it, clearly have failed to impress upon Mr. May what this war is all about. 3-19-44

The procession has passed him and others of his ilk by while they hibernated in their Rip Van Winkle slumber of the past era. He tragically clings to the rotting tree of white supremacy, defying to the bitter end the strong, onrushing winds of racial equality, of freedom and brotherhood that are engulfing the world.

Mr. May, as do the South Caroline legislators, feels the pressure of events trampling underfoot his archaic belief in the myth of one man being superior to another, merely because by circumstance of birth, his skin is white. As a consequence he would in desperation fight back, but suddenly discovers that he has been srtipped of all the archaic weapons.

SCIENCE DESERTS HIM

No longer is science on his side. But a few decades ago scientists, receiving all of their support from moneyed interests who found it profitable to promulgate the belief that one race is superior to another, echoed the wishes of their masters and furnished plenty of bogus theories to support this contention.

One of the nation's leading scientists of that time, so bastardized his knowledge that he wrote an entire volume seeking to prove that Negroes until adolescence were the equal of white people, after which a bone growth in the skull began liming the Negro's mental capacities. 3-19-44

Mr. May no longer can lean back on this kind of spurious theory. They were long ago proven wholly false and completely without foundation.

RELIGION AGAINST HIM

No longer is religion on his side. Ignoring all that Christ taught, many preachers not so long ago to please their wealthy parishoners twisted passages of the Bible in their feverish effort to prove black men inferior. This kind of propaganda, too, has been discredited. Present-day ministers, for the most part, accept to mean what it says Christ's teachings of universal brotherhood.

The damnable falsehoods seeking to prove that black men are inferior have been swept away. On'y the indisputable truth remains. So Mr. May, paralleling the actions of Hitler in burning hundreds of books in the public squares of of Germany, would fool himself that he can bury this truth, merely by locking it up in a Washington warehouse and throwing the key away.

In preventing the distribution of the Army's copies of "Races Mankind" merely because the scientific truth it contains is distasteful to his peculiar beliefs, Mr. May actually prostitutes the oath he took when he assumed his seat in the House.

BETRAYING AMERICA

He deliberately thumbs his nose at the American practice of "Freedom of press." He shows his utter contempt of free discussion, history and pure scientific truth and reveals that he stubbornly opposes arriving at a solution of the most trying problem on the American scene today.

He is betraying the thousands of fine young men who are laying down their lives to rid the earth of men who would by force impose their ideas of superiority upon others. Knowing that there is no essential difference between Aryan supremacy and white supremacy, he would hide from the men heriocally battling the one, that he and his kind intend to protect and foster the other.

And in betraying them, he betrays all for which America and its coalition of allies of many races fights—the establishment of a world community that concedes the superiority of no man; that holds all races of men to be equals, brothers in the human family. Only in such a community can the United Nations ever hope to win an enduring peace, Mr. May and his white supremacists notwithstanding.

PLANS NEW EDITION OF RACE PAMPHLET

Times- New York, N.Y.

Public Affairs Group Differs With May's View That Led to Army Circulation Ban

3-8-44

The Public Affairs Committee, through its editor, Maxwell S. Stewart, announced yesterday that it planned a fourth printing of the pamphlet "The Races of Mankind," despite a War Department decision to drop plans for circulating among officer-instructors 55,000 copies already purchased.

The Army's decision not to use the pamphlet was disclosed following criticism voiced by Representative Andrew J. May, chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, that it presented the Northern Negro as the intellectual superior of the Southern white.

"Mr. May is the first person to object to the pamphlet and we feel his objection is based on his failure to read the text carefully," Mr. Stewart said. "Anyone who read the text carefully could not possibly misconstrue it."

250,000 Copies in Circulation

The pamphlet, prepared by Prof. Ruth Benedict and Dr. Gene Weltfish of the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, has had a circulation of 250,000 among women's clubs, religious and civic groups and various other organizations. Also it has been widely reprinted.

It was said at the offices of the Public Affairs Committee that the Committee for Inter-American Affairs was among the organizations given permission to translate excerpts from the pamphlet into Spanish for distribution in South America.

The pamphlet was defended as a general refutation of Nazi race theories.

The part to which Representative May apparently objected, Mr. Stewart said, concerned intelligence tests given to the American Expeditionary Forces in the first World War. Of these tests, the pamphlet said: 3-8-44

"They showed that Negroes made a lower score on intelligence tests than whites. But the tests also showed that Northerners, black and white, had higher scores than Southerners, black and white.

"Everyone knows that Southerners are inborn equals of Northerners, but in 1917 many Southern States' per capita expenditures for schools were only fractions of those in Northern States, and housing and diet and income were far below average, too.

"Since the vast majority of Negroes lived in the South, their score on the intelligence test was a score they got not only as Negroes, but as Americans who had grown up under poor conditions in the South. Scientists therefore compared the scores of Southern whites and Northern Negroes.

Median Scores on AEF Intelligence Tests:

Southern Whites — Mississippi, 41.25; Kentucky, 41.50; Arkansas, 41.55.

Northern Negroes—New York, 45.02; Illinois, 47.35; Ohio, 49.50.

"Negroes with better luck after they were born got higher scores than whites with less luck. The white race did badly where economic conditions were bad and schooling was not provided, and Negroes living under better conditions surpassed them.

"The differences did not arise because people were from the North or the South, or because they were white or black, but because of differences in income, education, cultural advantages and other opportunities."

The pamphlet also was defended by Harold S. Sloan, director of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which issues grants in support of the work of the Public Affairs Committee. 3-8-44

"It seems a pity," Mr. Sloan said, "that the Military Affairs Committee of the House sees fit to withhold from our armed forces the simple facts of science that completly refute the enemy's contention of a superrace."

Rockefeller Laboratory Tests Explode Rankin's Race Theory

Daily Worker- New York, N.Y.

3-28-44

By Peter Stone

I've just come across Congressman Rankin's speech to the House of Representatives in which he states "that one of the most vicious movements that has yet been instituted by the crackpots, the Communists and the parlor pinks of this country, is that of trying to browbeat the American Red Cross into taking labels off the blood bank . . so that it will not show whether it is Negro blood or white blood. That seems to be one of the schemes of these fellow travelers to try to mongrelize the nation. . . ."

Aside from the fact that biological, physical and chemical tests show that all blood is similar (and that includes Rankin's) except for classification into the four medical types, there is an interesting item I've just come across that merits attention. It appears in the review of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1943 in the section devoted to the battle against yellow fever. It all began in West Africa back in 1927. Here in the fever-ridden section of Africa, in the region of Lagos, the laboratories established by the Foundation, extracted a blood specimen from a black native named Asibi. Asibi's blood was then inoculated into a rhesus monkey. The monkey died of the disease but Asibi recovered.

The fact is that all the vaccine manufactured since 1937 by governmental agencies and the Rockefeller Foundation, is the result of the original strain of virus obtained from Asibi. Carried down to the present day, from one laboratory animal to another through repeated tissues cultures and by enormous multiplication, Asibi's blood has afforded immunity to yellow fever to millions of people in many countries.

Thus in all yellow fever areas where our soldiers and sailors are stationed, they are protected from this dread disease by vaccination from this same strain derived from Asibi. Thus through science, the blood of one man in West Africa, has become a boon for the whole human race. 3-28-44

A Note to 'B' Movie Producers

It was my unfortunate experience to sit through one of those "B" pictures recently—and the locale was the deep dark jungles of Africa. Again I saw the Hollywood version of the African medicine man—painted in his goriest colors, muttering incantations and gibberish, and brewing a foul-smelling stuff in a big black pot. While it is true that native medical folklore of Africa is bound up with superstition and fear of the gods, as is true of all primitive peoples, I must protest against this version of primitive medicine. There is much that can be learned from these native practitioners and in the Soviet Union, an Institute has been set up for the study of various remedies handed down by the many primitive Asiatic peoples.

In South Africa the British government has set aside funds for the study of ancient African pharmacology, and among the first published reports was a study of medical practices among the tribes of Liberia, in 1941. The researchers discovered that the "devil doctors "were wise in many ways. These native medicine men prescribed heat, hot mud baths and long rests for rheumatic pains. They treated scurvy by adding greens to the diet. Warriors complaining of fatigue were given kola nuts to chew. These nuts contain caffein, a drug which acts as a mild stimulant in relieving weariness. The surgeons mended fractures with raffia splints and gentle massage.

Item for Congressman May

A letter to Congressman May, who fought against the distribution to the armed forces of that splendid pamphlet, "The Races of Mankind" because it showed that no "race" was superior:

Many anthropologists were of the opinion that the "white race" was superior to the Negro race. They conducted a series of tests on various sections of the population to determine "intelligence." The scores obtained, whether for Negro or white were not the same from different parts of the country. And they were further amazed to see that Northern Negroes equalled or outranked Southern whites. The test results showed that the scores were sectional in character. Their analysis showed an original error in interpretation of the old Army intelligence tests. 3-28-44

These 1918 tests had tended to show the Negroes as inferior to the whites in intellectual development throughout the country. The new tests showed that this was true only insofar as the Negroes were Southerners—and the majority of the Negroes in America live in the south. Obviously even the dominant white race did badly in tests if they had been reared in certain southern states, where per capita expenditures for education are low. The testers went further and tested Negro and white boys in Nashville, Chicago, and New York City. The Negro scores were farthest below the white in Nashville, somewhat below in Chicago, and equalled the score in New Lork City. They tried the experiment in Los Angeles where Negroes are few in number and are educated in the same classroom with whites. The scores of the Negro children was an I.Q. of 104.7 (as against an average IQ for the Southern Negro of about 75) and this was "slightly above that of the white children with whom they were compared."

TOWARD INTERRACIAL UNDERSTANDING

Informer Houston, Texas

February is a month of pertinent observances Negro History Week is Feb. 13-20 and has for the theme of this, its 19th celebration: The Negro Soldier in the Wars of America. The fact that the Negro citizen has participated in five major wars in which freedom was the major issue is a significant reason for calling the Negro citizenry's attention to the great gap between freedom as a "war cry", as Dr. Charles Wesley puts it, and freedom as a fact following the wars. While extolling the Negro's most obvious virtue of loyalty to his country, and reviewing his participation in the American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil, Spanish-American and World Wars respectively, some serious attention should also be given planning the role of the Negro in post-war America. 2-5-44

Race Relations Sunday

Many of the southern states observe Race Relations Sunday by encouraging an exchange of speakers and ministers between Negro and white churches and other organizations. Houston's Commission on Interracial Cooperation has had consistent success in getting large groups of both races to attend its public meetings. The commission recently had Houston's City Manager, Mr. John Edy, as guest speaker in a closed meeting. Mr. Edy stated that he had done no specific planning for Houston Negroes, but that city planning was for the whole citizenry evenly. The appearance of public officials in both public and closed meetings serves to foster better understanding between the races. 2-5-44

Negro History in White Schools

Mrs. Madeline Morgan, Miss Elinor McCollom and Mrs. Bessie King prepared units of material for use in primary, intermediate and upper grades of the Chicago public schools. Tulsa, Oklahoma, has a unit on Negro history for high school pupils. An extension of information regarding the accomplishments of Negroes provides a basis for interracial understanding in light of the fact that the average history book that is used in public schools has little, if anything to say about Negroes.

No Race Superior, DePauw University Prof Declares

Afro American - Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Mather of DePauw, Dr. Johnson of Fisk Address Evansville Interracial Conference

3-11-44

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — "There are no superior or inferior races —only superior and inferior opportunities," Dr. William G. Mather of DePauw University told 250 church, social and civic leaders during a two-day interracial conference held here last week.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University also spoke at the meeting, sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches, Evansville Interracial Commission, Council of Social Agencies, local council of churches, YM and YWCA, and local schools.

No Super Race, He Says

"There are no superior or inferior races—only superior and inferior opportunities," declared Dr. Mather. "Intelligence tests reveal not so much a person's capacity to think as what he has been permitted to think."

"We must think of race in terms of our American creed and in the presence of the fury of war," Dr. Johnson declared, citing a recent survey which revealed that while 47 per cent of recent racial clashes occurred in the South, 53 per cent took place in the North and West.

These, he pointed out, were caused by labor relations, housing congestion, police brutality and denial of civil rights, due mainly to the shift in population. "We have witnessed a favorable reaction in the formation of 140 interracial committees since the recent outbursts," he added.

Must Help Newcomers

He urged that colored community leaders give more thought to newcomers from the South who are not trained in skills; to help them "develop personal discipline and aid in readaption of behavior patterns to those expected in Northern industrial cities."

Dr. Johnson pointed out that the white community which benefits from the labor of these newcomers should assist in the problems "by abandonment of the idea of second-class citizenship for non-whites, to rid themselves of the fear complex of what might happen. 3-11-44

"There is more involved than the sacredness of property rights at stake. There must be re-evaluation of the issues and a realization of the impossibility of developing a complete civilization with moral and economic shortsightedness and undemocratic and un-Christian behavior patterns," he said.

58b-1944

Writes First Book On Disease And Care Of Negro Skin and Hair

Weekly Review-Atlanta 4-8-44

In his book, "Cosmetology in the Negro," Dr. Gerald A. Spencer discusses the many problems of beauty that confront those who deal with the care of the Negro's skin and hair. The text, though small, is written in such a manner as to be understood by the average person.

Among some of the points discussed are characteristics of the skin that are peculiar to Negroes; the important role of the Negro beautician in community health; Diseases of the skin, including the scalp, and prevention where possible.

Among the characteristics peculiar to the Negro, the author states, are the tendency to develop prominetn ugly scars or "keloids' 'that follow the slightest injury to the skin, and the presence of pigment, with its disturbances that sometimes cause blemishes, moles and other markings.

He also discusses both the harm- less and harmful methods of straightening the hair, baldness of various types, scientific treatment for various defects of the face and scalp, which are of benefit to both men and women in their quest for beauty.

The book is recommended for beauticians, physicians, nurses barbers and others. It is published by the Parris Collection, 176-15 129th Avenue, Springfield, L. I., New York.

Dr. Spencer received his college training at the New York City College and earned the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Lyons in France. He is one of the four Negro fellows of the New York Academy of Medicine, associate dermatologist at Harlem Hospital, adjunct attending dermatologist and syphilologist at Skin and Cancer Hospital of the Post Graduate Medical School of Columbia University, and assistant physician in charge of the Central Harlem Health Center of New York Department of Health.

58b-1944

Information About Blood Tests

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
March 13, 1944

By WILLIAM BRADY, M. D.

Schoolgirl writes that she has been having an argument with her teacher about the difference between white and Negro blood. She maintains there is no difference, but her teacher tells her that in a great hospital where the teacher's brother is an interne they have made blood tests which reveal whether a patient is part Negro, even though the patient never knew there was any Negro blood in his or her veins.

The schoolgirl suspects the teacher was stretching the point a bit to maintain her supremacy. But the teacher assures her that she (the pupil) confuses blood plasma with the actual blood. The blood plasma of a Negro is not different from that of a white person, the teacher graciously concedes, but the whole blood in its natural form is different, and that is one reason why doctors use only the blood plasma for transfusion.

The schoolgirl came off beaten.

But her turn will come tomorrow.

No scientist has yet discovered a test which will distinguish blood of a white person from blood of a Negro, a Chinese, a Malayan or an Indian.

All human blood is the same, not only the plasma or liquid part but the whole blood, including the corpuscles.

The teacher misunderstood her brother's story—or else somebody is spoofing somebody.

All I know about this schoolgirl's teacher is what I read in the girl's letter, but I'd be willing to bet the teacher has an assortment of racial, political, religious and medical prejudices and derives what satisfaction she can from airing them when she thinks it safe to do so.

I hope the schoolgirl loses no time in re-opening the argument and giving the teacher the opportunity to (1) explain that she was mistaken about the test made in the hospital, or (2) admitting she is a wretched misanthropist and ought to be put where she can no longer plant poison in the minds of the young.

Books of the Times

Times-New York, N.Y. 4-10-44

ECONOMICS has sometimes been called the dismal science. Anthropology might well be called the misunderstood one. Few people ever dare claim a knowledge they lack about physics, or chemistry, or biology. But the number of totally ignorant persons who pontificate about anthropology is legion. William Jennings Bryan was one. Adolf Hitler is another. The origins of man and the races of mankind constitute the proper subject of anthropology, one of the newer sciences, one that has made extraordinary progress in pushing back the limits of darkness in this century. William Howells, a grandson of William D. Howells, who shares some of his distinguished ancestor's gift of expression, has written a learned and peppery book about anthropology called "Mankind So Far."* It is the fifth in the science series of the American Museum of Natural History, of which institution Professor Howells is a research associate. He is also an assistant professor of his subject at the University of Wisconsin.

William Howells

Some Early Men Not Ornamental

There has been life upon this planet, estimates Professor Howells, for some billion years. There have been animals that could be called men for about six million years. But the men belonged to species quite different from ourselves and were of such a nature that we can be glad not to have to claim them as kin. Pithecanthropus erectus, who looked rather like a pug-faced ape, and the subhuman Neanderthals were not pleasant customers, and knew next to nothing about the art of gracious living. True man, flatteringly called homo sapiens, is estimated variously at being anywhere from 500,000 to 50,000 years old. In the long chain of evolution, the natural selection that "showed God moving in a more mysterious way than had been previously allowed for," man is "a modified fish." Counting only more recent years, he is "in body and brain a made-over ape."

Man is one of the primates, and so are lemurs, monkeys and apes. If you could go back far enough into the Mesozoic Age you would find a common ancestor for them all who was only a tree shrew (any errors in this review are my own misunderstandings and are not to be blamed on Professor Howells). Much more recently the apes and men split away from the great mammal family tree and probably share a common ancestor, who has been tentatively identified as one Dryopithecus. But men are not descended from monkeys or apes. The greatest single event in the history of mankind was when men stopped brachiating around in the trees (a lovely word that means swinging on branches by your arms like a chimpanzee) and climbed down on to the ground to lead the more abundant life there.

Professor Howells doesn't put any stock in theories that man evolved in any particular place, a prehistoric garden of Eden. Man couldn't have originated in the Americas, where no pre-homo sapiens bones have ever been found. He might have in Africa and probably did in Asia. In more historic times, of course, he migrated out from Asia in all directions. 4-10-44

Homo Sapiens Much Mixed

"Mankind So Far" devotes a great deal of space to a discussion of skeletons, skulls and fossil remains, and to a history of the discovery of the most important finds and the controversies that raged about them. Some of this material gets pretty technical, but it never goes beyond the bounds of a book suitable for popular consumption (after all, I think I understand most of it myself). Professor Howells is quick to admit the gaps in our knowledge of our species' past. And he takes considerable pleasure in pointing out the differences of opinion that divide authoritative anthropologists into contending factions. Without stooping to the frantic tricks of the popularizer of knowledge who will be popular or strain a ligament in the attempt, he writes a clear, sharp, lively prose that is frequently punctuated by jabs of impish humor. There is considerable entertainment to be found in "Mankind So Far" as well as a lot of solid, tightly packed information.

Only after two-thirds of his book is written does Professor Howells reach homo sapiens himself. He then proceeds to make a rapid survey of the Neolithic migrations, the inventions of agriculture, bronze and iron and the vexed matter of races. There are only three major races of mankind: White, Negro and Mongolian. They do not differ in skeletal structures enough to matter and are chiefly recognizable from each other by the amount of brown pigmentation in their skin, the shape of their lips and noses, whether they have a fold in the corner of their eyes, etc. There are several perceptible subdivisions of the white race, Nordic, Alpine, Mediterranean, but in Europe they have been mixed together so long and so thoroughly that all Nazi chatter about pure Nordic strains and superior blood is so much rubbish. 4-10-44

Professor Howells' most interesting and surprising racial theory (to an ignorant layman) is that Negroes are not an African race. He thinks the Negroes of tropical West Africa (those of East and South Africa have strong admixtures of white strains) and those of New Guinea and the Bismarck Islands are both emigrant descendants of one original parent race that came from somewhere in South Asia.

As to the future of mankind, Professor Howells predicts the imminent disappearance of wisdom teeth and not too long after it the disappearance of little toes. He concludes: "Others claim man will destroy himself, which is of course a political prediction. This seems to me a fate as unlikely as committing suicide by holding your breath. Man, for all his frailties, is now one of the toughest, most tenacious, most adaptable animals in the kingdom. * * * I am sure that he is here to stay."

Dustin' off the NEWS

By LUCIUS C. HARPER

THIS MAN WANTS TO KNOW: "WHO IS A NEGRO?"

2-12-44
Defender, Chicago, Illinois

IN CURRENT DISCUSSION the term "Negro" is used loosely to designate those people whose maternal ancestors were imported as slaves from the continent of Africa. While the term ordinarily denotes color, it also connotes condition. The social segregation of the colored race is based no less upon its traditional servile status than upon ethnic characteristics. The American Negro, as he is called, does not now constitute a race in the sense of a compact, ethnic group, imbued with a common spirit and impelled by a common impulse. There is no solidified physical basis as a background for the emergence of a common consciousness with a strength and stubbornness to compel a coordinate policy of persistent procedure. There is rather a promiscuous assortment of individuals with diverse physical and spiritual dispositions and actuated by American social influences that make them part and parcel of this great commonwealth: no different from the rest that make up the Melting Pot. But it is so difficult—almost well-nigh impossible—to get our white fellow-citizens to believe this.

L. C. Harper

It is rather amusing, if not laughable, to see how busily engaged some parts of our country have been in attempting to classify the Negro and keeping him from blending in the many colors and creeds and cultures of the rainbow of peoples who compose this nation. Writing recently in the Interracial Review, Bernard Gittelson, student of anthropology and sociology, and Statistical Analyst for the New York State War Council's Committee, asks the question: "Who Is A Negro?" and reveals some interesting capers along the color line. Listen to Mr. Gittelson:

* * *

FOR MANY YEARS I have wondered just who is a Negro. "A person with a dark complexion,

kinky hair and thick lips" cannot has acquired such importance, in-laws will perhaps explain why than one-quarter Negro was
be the proper definition, because I deed, that individual States have some American citizens have been "white" for voting purposes. In
know white people who have kinky gone amuck in their attempts to confused as to their proper identity. Ohio, if a person was three-eighths
hair or thick lips, or are darker define a "Negro." They have con- Before the Civil War a Negro in or more Negro and distinctly col-
than some Negroes. cocted laws that provide "scien- the United States was any slave. ored in appearance, he was re-
In a society where all people are tific" definitions, so that, today,
treated alike, this question is pure- their varied solutions permit a re- Afterwards, with slaves technically garded as colored and therefore not
ly academic. But in America to- markable paradox: **a Negro can** freed, "Negro" meant a colored per- eligible to be admitted to a white
day the answer decides whether a **change his race—legally—by mi-** son. school. Maine decreed that a per-
person can enjoy rights and privi- **grating from one state to another.** Michigan held that a person less son with one-sixteenth African
leges afforded to "all citizens." It The following samples of state

2-12-44

blood was a Negro as far as the marriage laws were concerned. (This has been repealed). An old Indiana law prohibited persons who had one-eighth or more Negro blood from testifying against white persons. In Louisiana's judgment, all persons who were not white were colored. Later, in 1910, the courts held that a person was colored if he had one-sixteenth Negro blood. Today, Virginia requires every person to supply information concerning the racial composition of his ancestry as far back as it is known. Georgia, until 1927, considered any person who had one-eighth or more colored blood as a Negro. Today the law reads, "All persons with any ascertainable trace of Negro blood must be classified 'Negro.'"

* * *

VIRGINIA CLASSIFIED as a tribal Indian any person who had one-quarter or more Indian blood as long as he lived on a reservation: if he moved off it he was "colored." Tennessee and Alabama laws say a person with any Negro blood is colored. Arkansas not only sustains this view, but insists that **the mere trace of Negro blood, whether visible or not**, is cause for exclusion from the "white" class. Texas defines the term "Negro" as one of Negro blood to the third generation inclusive. In Oklahoma, a Negro is any person of African descent. In North Carolina, according to one court decision, a person of mixed blood must have had less than one-sixteenth Negro blood to be classified as a free white person. Florida says, "Negroes are those who have one-eighth or more Negro blood." Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina consider as colored one whose blood is one-eighth or more Negro. In Kentucky, a child having an **appreciable** amount of Negro blood is colored. But if a person looks white, has straight hair is of copper color, and has other characteristics of the white man, he is not a mulatto as far as marriage laws are concerned. Virginia had one case where, because a corporation was composed entirely of Negro members, it was deemed a "colored" corporation. The court held a corporation is neither white nor colored but a separate colorless entity.

The above laws are only samples to show that a person can be a Negro in one state and a white person in another. Variations from one-sixteenth to one hundred per cent show the absurdity of the phraseology "Negro blood" and African descent. Moreover, very few records of ancestry are kept; hence it is close to impossible to compute exact proportions. The term "colored blood" is unalloyed tautology; all blood, notwithstanding the Red Cross blood segregation folly, is colored, **viz red!**

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HOW WOULD Southern courts deal with a white person whose parents in turn were white for many generations, but born in Africa? This white person would be of "African descent," but the laws of some states would classify him as colored or Negro.

Is the futility of such legal attempts to prove who is a Negro indicative? In an effort to keep the white race "pure" the laws will have to become more and more complex and nonsensical as time goes on.

To the question then, "Who is a Negro?", the answer is "a human being—like you and me."

Civilization Is Not Caused by Race

People's Voice—New York, N.Y.

THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT "EDISONS" IN ALL TIMES AND PLACES.

3-11-44

[Ed. Note—This is the sixth and last in a series of articles taken from "The Races of Mankind," published by the Public Affairs Committee and written by Dr. Gene Weltfish and Prof. Ruth Benedict].

History proves that progress in civilization is not the monopoly of one race or subrace. When our white forebears in Europe were rude stone-age primitives, the civilizations of the Babylonians and the Egyptians had already flourished and been eclipsed. There were great Negro states in Africa when Europe was a sparsely settled forest. Negroes made iron tools and wove fine cloth for their clothing when fair-skinned Europeans wore skins and knew nothing of iron.

When Europe was just emerging from the Middle Ages, Marco Polo visited China and found there a great civilization, the like of which he had never imagined.

Up to now, every great center of civilization has had its day and has given place to others. The proud rulers of yesterday become the simple peasants of another era. The crude people who once threatened the great cities become later the kings and emperors in the same country. The peoples change, but the old arts of life are, for the most part, not permanently lost. They pass into the common heritage of mankind.

3-11-44

Inventions pass, too, from one continent to another when people trade with each other. This has happened since the dawn of history. About 5,000 years ago, when Europe was on the frontiers of the civilized world, Asiatics came to trade in Europe and North Africa in great caravans. People from all over came in contact with one another and compared notes on what they knew. In this way they pooled their knowledge, and out of this combined knowledge came the great inventions of civilization —massive building and the arts of metallurgy, chemistry, writing, medicine, and mathematics; transportation on wheels. The idea of printing and the use of movable type is an old Chinese invention, and our power engines depend upon a knowledge of explosives that the Chinese worked out with firecrackers.

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The United States is the greatest crossroads of the world in all history. People have come here from every race and nation, and almost every race in the world is represented among our citizens.

SECOND THOUGHTS

By S. I. HAYAKAWA

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

The Belief In "Blood"

THE TROUBLE with nonsense about "race" is that it is often believed just as firmly by the victims of race prejudice as it is by those who hold and spread prejudices. I am reminded of this by being told recently by a Negro musician that superior ability in music is "in the blood" of Negroes.

Of course, no cultural peculiarities of people, no individual peculiarities whether in tendencies toward musical ability or murder, are to be found "in the blood" of anyone. In the current issue of "The Scientific Monthly" (July 1944) is an article by the famous anthropologist, M. F. Ashley Montagu, "Physical Characters of the American Negro," which effectively demolishes that kind of nonsense:

7-22-44

S. I. Hayakawa

"The belief that Negro blood differs from white blood is another common stereotype. Here, again, there is no ground for the belief whatsoever. In all the constituents of the blood, such as hemoblobin, red cells, agglutinogens, and agglutinins, the blood of Negroes is the same as that of whites. The same blood groups A, B, AB, and O, and the blood types N and M and the Rhesus factor occur among Negroes as among whites . . . "

"The Small Negro Brain"

PROF MONTAGU also sums up the research done on the size of brain among various races. Here, the results show that the average Negro cranial capacity is 1350 c.c., which is 40 c.c. less than the average for whites. "Aha," the racists cry. "That proves that Negroes have a smaller mental capacity than whites!"

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Unfortunately for their argument, Prof. Montagu continues with further facts: "The Negro Kaffirs and Amaxosa of Africa, the Japanese, American Indians, Eskimo, and Polynesians on the average have brains which are larger than those of the average white. On the same grounds as the white

proclaims himself superior to the Negro, he should proclaim these peoples superior to himself—thus far, however, there are no evidences that any white man is ever likely to do so."

In brief, the size, shape, and weight of the human brain has never yet been shown to have any bearing on how well it works. It works equally well, and equally badly, among all races.

"Newest Type Of Mankind"

THE AMERICAN Negro, Prof. Montagu says, is physically "the newest type of mankind," occupying "a position intermediate between the African Negro on the one hand and the white and American Indian on the other. "It is well known that culturally the American Negro has extremely little in common with the African Negro, and that that little is growing less as time goes on. But the physical differences between the Old World Negroes and the New have progressively become so marked that Prof. Montagu feels justified in describing the American Negro as a new ethnic type.

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The new ethnic type is a combination of African and European inheritances. A consequence of this fact is the curious refutation of the charge sometimes made that Negro athletes enjoy an unfair advantage over white athletes, "owing to the alleged possession of a longer heel bone and longer calf muscles."

This charge, Prof. Montagu tells us, has been "critically examined by W. M. Cobb, who has shown that many of the outstanding Negro athletes have legs and feet which are predominantly white in their characters, and that Negroid physical characters are not in any way significantly associated with Negro athletic ability."

Arguments about the "inferiority" or "superiority" of races, whether made by white supremacists or Japanese warlords or Herr Goebbels or Negro chauvinists, haven't a leg to stand on—not even a leg with an extra long heel bone. There just isn't any such thing.

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58c-1944

February 1 To Be National Freedom Day

Journal & Guide 12-30-44 Norfolk, Va.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—In an effort to properly commemorate the signing of the vital 13th Amendment to our Constitution by President Lincoln and the United States Congress nearly 79 years ago, another National Freedom Day will be celebrated throughout the nation on February 1, 1945.

It was the historic 13th Amendment which blotted out every portion of our national laws which favored human slavery and the idea of Freedom Day was conceived in the minds of millions of citizens who benefited from this Amendment and desired to memorialize its anniversary.

The 78th Congress of the United States last September introduced a joint resolution requesting the President to proclaim and designate February 1st of each year as National Freedom Day.

12-30-44

ONE OF LARGEST

Among the many celebrations which are being planned throughout the country in commemoration of this epochal day, the National Freedom Day program scheduled to take place in Philadelphia's Town Hall, Feb. 1, 1945, looms as one of the largest.

At this meeting Major R. R. Wright, Sr., President of the National Freedom Day Association, and a prominent Philadelphia banker, will call to order what promises to be a distinguished gathering. Many outstanding national and local leaders will participate.

'Negro and Nation' Course Now On

Worker

A special one-week morning course on The Negro and the Nation has just begun at the George Washington Carver School under the joint sponsorship of the Carver and Jefferson Schools and the People's Voice.

Sessions are being held from Monday to Friday of this week, daily from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Topics includes: Tuesday — The Current Scene with Alphaeus Hunton, executive secretary of the Council on African Affairs, and Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the Carver School; Wednesday — The Negro Worker Today and Tomorro, with Thomas Richardson, executive vice president of the United Federal Workers, CIO and Elizabeth Lawson, instructor at the Jefferson School; Thursday—The Cultural Contribution of the Negro to American Life, with Gwendolyn Bennett and a number of guests from the cultural field; and Friday —A Program for the Future, a round-table discussion.

Single admissions will be taken att he Carver School, which is at 57 West 125 St., for each of the re- at the Carver School, which is at 57 $1 per session. Fee for the entire course is $5.

Ohio Papers Will Drop Culprit's Race

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va. 12-23-44

CINCINNATI, OHIO — (ANP) —The result of a long campaign conducted by officials of the Cincinnati Branch, NAACP, all three of the city's daily newspapers have announced that no longer would the racial identity of the culprit be used in connection with criminal stories.

Aiding the NAACP in its fight were the Frontier's club, the Racial Amity committee of the division of Negro welfare, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Women's City club, white.

In August, the NAACP branch submitted the clipping analysis of news stories appearing in the local dailies which used the racial designation, "Negro." Together with copies of the analysis, letters were forwarded to the Times-Star, Post and Enquirer requesting once again that they abandon the policy of racially labeling crime stories.

Score Use Of Offensive Term In Dictionary

Daily World — Atlanta Ga 12-27-44

Negro Soldier In France Tells NAACP Of Book

NEW YORK — (SNS) — Letters were sent Dec. 12, by the NAACP to Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy and Ted Poston, OWI News Bureau, protesting offensive use and definition of the word "nigger" in a pocket-size English-French dictionary widely used in Belgium.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Association through a letter from a Negro GI in that area who said, "I don't believe it is the intention of the Belgium peole to insult us because they are exceptionally friendly and nice to us, but that it is an unfortunate situation on the part of the person or persons responsible for printing these books."

12-27-44

In suggesting steps to be taken by the War Department to eliminate this humiliation to Negro soldiers, the NAACP said:

In the English-French 'nigger' is defined as 'negre' meaning a black man. In the section of the dictionary giving simple short conversational phrases occurs the sentence,

Word 'Negro' 500 Years Old

World Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta Daily 12-2-44

NEW YORK—(ANP)— The word Negro is more than 500 years old, a recent study of H. L. Mencken in an article, "Designations for Colored Folk," in American Speech revealed. Contrary to popular belief however, the word is Spanish and Portuguese meaning "black," rather than an Americanism. It was inserted into the English as early as the 16th century, according to Mencken.

12-2-44

"By 1587, a northern English form 'neger' had appeared, and it was from this that both the Irish 'nayagur' and the English-American 'nigger' were derived."

Negro publicists for a long time have toyed with the word by proposing to substitute other designations as "race" and "group." Mencken states that of all these suggestions, one "racemen," has survived more or less and the word "group" is widely used. "Or group," "group man," and "group leader," all flourish.

12-2-44

Lester Aglar Walton, then a journalist, is credited with having pioneered in the work of demanding that the word be capitalized. Now, most American publications use the capital N. The word Negress was tossed out long ago, Mencken said.

Use of N----r in Dictionary Scored

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. 12-23-44

NEW YORK—Protests against the use of the offensive word "n----r" in an English-French dictionary widely used in Belgium were sent last week by the NAACP to the War Department and the Office of War Information.

In letters sent to the Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy and Ted Poston, OWI News Bureau, the NAACP said:

Remedy Suggested

"This dictionary is not issued by the U.S. military authorities as far as we can determine, but this association feels certain that U.S. military officials in Belgium can make known to the Belgian people the way American colored soldiers feel about the use of this word.

"We suggest that an announcement over the radio and in the Belgian newspapers will help correct the situation."

In the English-French section, "n----r" is defined as "negre" meaning a black man. In the section giving simple, short conversational phrases occurs this sentence: "The n-----s who are with you, where do they come from?"

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Toward Freedom

By Doxey Wilkerson

THE five-day course on "The Negro and the Nation," which begins next Monday at the Carver School, offers a rare opportunity which New Yorkers would do well to grasp. There never was a time in recent history when it was more important for white and Negro leaders really to understand the crucial role of the Negro in the nation.

After several long oppressive decades of deliberate negation of the Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution, the American nation is witnessing, and can no longer ignore the rapid strides of the Negro people toward their historic goal of freedom. Negroes are "getting out of place," all up and down the line. Propelled forward by the upsurge of democratic forces which this people's war has set in motion, the Negro people are fighting for their freedom with a confidence and vigor heretofore unknown.

Much as was true during the revolutionary change marked by the Civil War and Reconstruction, so now, when the very foundations of world and American society are in process of reconstruction, the Negro sees the goal of full democratic rights as entirely attainable in the near future. He is determined to reach that goal, and new and powerful allies have come forward to help him along the way.

* * *

AS A RESULT, status quo is being profoundly disturbed. Those with vested interests in "white supremacy" are alarmed at the threat to their status—or profits. Race relations are subjected to terrific strain. Sharp "race conflict" appears here and there, in both the North and South; and it is reasonable to expect that much more lies ahead.

How shall we meet this problem to assure that race conflict does not seriously disrupt the unity of our nation, and at the same time to hasten the process of Negro liberation?

The basic approach is first to understand the problem, and that is what the course on "The Negro and the Nation" seeks to contribute.

Here is an opportunity to discuss with eminent instructors and progressive white and Negro fellow-workers (1) the historical roots of the present problem of race conflict; (2) the changing character of the problem in different areas of American life—economic, political, educational, social; (3) the new role of the Negro in the labor movement, and the implications of the "Negro question" for the unity and strength of organized labor; and finally, (4) what is to be done—a program of action on both the foreign and domestic scenes to make sure that this problem is handled in such a way as to promote the democratic interests of the nation.

"The Negro And the Nation"

* * *

THIS course is sponsored jointly by the Carver School (57 W. 125th St.), the Jefferson School (575 6th Ave.), and The People's Voice. Classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, Dec. 11 to 15, inclusive. Lecture-discussion leaders include Edward Lewis, secretary of the New York Urban League; Thomas Richardson, vice-president of the United Federal Workers of America (CIO); Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the Carver School; W. Alphaeus Hunton, educational director of the Council on African Affairs; Doxey A. Wilkerson and others to be announced. Registration for the course are accepted at either the Carver School or the Jefferson School. The fee is $3.00.

There are no Americans now who are isolated from the "Negro question." Many individuals and groups are eager to know what to do about it. Next week's course on "The Negro and the Nation" should do much to clarify their path.

Use Of Word 'Nigger' In GI
Dictionary Assailed

NEW YORK--Letters were sent last week by the NAACP to Assistnat Secretary of War John J. McCloy and Ted Poston, OWI News Bureau, protesting offensive use and definition of the word 'Nigger' in a pocket-sized English-French dictionary widely used in Belgium.

The matter was brought to the attention of the association through a letter from a Negro GI in that area who said, "I don't believe it is the intention of the Belgium people to insult us because they are exceptionally friendly and nice to us, but that is an unfortunate situation on the part of the person or persons responsible for printing these books."

In suggesting steps to be taken by the War Department to eliminate this humiliation to Negro soldiers, the NAACP said:

"In the English-French section 'nigger' is defined as 'negre' meaning a black man. In the section of the dictionary giving simple short conversational phrases occurs the sentence, "The niggers who are with you, where do they come from?"

"This dictionary is not issued by the United States military authorities as far as we can determine, but this association feels certain that the United States military officials in Belgium can make known to the Belgium people the way American Negro Soldiers feel about the use of this word. We suggest that an announcement over the radio and in the Belgian newspapers will help correct the situation."

Chicago Defender--12-23-44

58c-1944

Freedom Day

Congress Asked Again To Make Feb. 1 'Freedom Day'

Courier- Pittsburg, Pa.

1-22-44

PHILADELPHIA —(ANP)— Dramatizing the universal cry for freedom today, the Negro is bringing it closer to the American home front by seeking the passage by Congress a proclamation declaring February 1 annual National Freedom day to be observed all over the country, just as Independence day, July 4, and Memorial day, May 30, are duly recognized and fittingly set aside.

City-wide programs for school children, mass meetings and roundtable discussions will mark the occasion this year, when distinguished leaders from local and far points will be present in Philadelphia. Governor Martin of Pennsylvania has already issued a proclamation setting it aside in this state, explaining its full significance.

APPROPRIATE DATE

February 1 was selected by the promoter of this idea, Maj. R. R. Wright, because it marks the date in 1865 when the 13th Amendment for emancipating the slaves was signed by President Abraham Lincoln. 1-22-44

On the program being held at Town hall in the evening will be J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of IBPOE of W; Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, nationally known educator, of North Carolina; Dr. F. D. Patterson, Miss Florence Read of Spelman college and Tax Commissioner Hubert Delaney of New York City, and others.

Town Hall Meeting Marks 3rd Annual Freedom Day

Tribune-Philadelphia, Pa.

By BERNICE D. SHELTON

1-15-44

Beneath the none-too-muffled rumblings of a none-too-concealed Civil War is distinguished the faint, but familiar cry of a struggling nation fighting to free itself of a state of utter confusion, born of paradoxes, and to make one single issue clear: Are we or are we not expected to fight for and preserve at home the same principles and precepts of a democratic way of life, such as the boys are risking life, limb and sanity battling for abroad?

Clarity is the first real cry of those seeking the truth behind those policies of the United Nations. Clarity is the first step to be attained by those at home. And until the latter is achieved on the homefront, how can we grasp the significance of special agreements abroad?

"Freedom," is the present-day keynote, at any rate. And it is belief in the American's Constitutional right as free men to demand equal opportunities with all other racial groups in this nation that the American Negro, particularly, is emphasizing at this time those principles upon which this country is founded, and pointing to the Thirteenth Amendment, just as a reminder, and getting out the old framed copy of the Bill of Rights and dusting it off

In order to better dramatize the movement now afoot to have inaugurated a National Freedom Day to commemorate, not only the freeing of the slaves, but the dignifying of labor by this very freedom, and making of free labor a profitable enterprise in itself, a mass meeting will be held February 1, 1944, in Town Hall, at which time prominent local and national speakers will be present, and delegates from 48 states appointed by their respective governors will be present.

To make this third annual Freedom Day program an official national movement, Major R. R. Wright and his committee responsible for the program are seeking the endorsement of the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate. 1-15-44

Meanwhile, the governors of 46 of the 48 states have written their personal approval of such a movement in personal letters to the president of the committee, Major Wright.

Typical of the type of response received to date is illustrated by the following message from Governor Leverett Saltenstall, of Massachusetts:

. . . Greetings from Massachusetts and my own best wishes to delegates and friends assembled for National Freedom Day. On this occasion I think we should do well to re-emphasize the Bill of Rights as the charter of Freedom. The Bill of Rights embodies the love of freedom which characterized the founding fathers of our country. It reflects the determination of succeeding generatins to safeguard the freedom they won. It is the spirit of the cause for which men are fighting and dying today. It inspires us all today to renew our loyalty to the principles of human equality upon which that freedom rests. Freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly—these are the pillars which sustain the temple of law.

"The times are fraught with peril to political, religious and human liberty. Now, as when the Bill of Rights was enacted by Congress, there are those who would abrogate freedom, create tyranny through bigotry and destroy the basic American concept that all men are created equal.

"Against such attempts to overthrow or whittle away their fundamental rights, the American people must stand firm, alike in times of war or peace. True Americans of all races and creeds, regardless of political affiliations, welcome this opportunity to reaffirm their devoted loyalty to the fundamental principles of personal liberty and human equality—principles upon which our nation was founded, and through which alone it can endure and prosper." 1-15-44

Joseph E. Mitchell, executive secretary to the Governor's Council, has been appointed by Governor Saltonstall as delegate from Massachusetts.

Other letters received naming delegates appointed include: Montana's Sam C. Ford, who appointed two delegates: Mrs. Claudia Bivins, Billings, Mon., and alternate, Mrs. C. H. Harrell, Helena, Mon.; Governor Henry F. Schricker, Indiana, Faburn DeFrants, executive secretary, Senate Avenue YMCA, Indianapolis; Gov. Henry Kelly, Michigan; Forrest C. Donnell; Governor of State of Missouri; W. J. Hale, President Tennessee State A. and T. College, who states: "......If they have the wisdom and courage to nominate a man like you, I should be delighted to support such an effort."

Also, Lester C. Hunt, Governor of Wyoming; Sam H. Jones, Governor of Louisiana, who named several possible delegates, among them, Dr. J. S. Clark, President-Emeritus, Southern University, Scotlandville, La.; Clyde S. Jones, for Gov. Prentice Cooper, of Tennessee; Kentucky's Governor Keen Johnson; Governor Chauncey Sparks, Alabama, who appointed President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee; Florida's Spessard L. Holland, who appointed Dr. J. R. E. Lee, of Florida A. and M., who names as alternate, a graduate of his school, Lawson E. Thomas.

Gov. Dwight H. Green, Ohio; Gov. E. P. Garville, Nevada; Robert S. Kerr Oklahoma's governor; Arkansas' Homer M. Adkins; and from other states: New Jersey, William J. Winchester; New York, Dr. Channing H. Tobias; Delaware, Walter W. Bacon; Maryland, Willard Allen; and North Carolina's Bovernor Broughton, who appointed J. E. Shepard and C. C. Spaulding. 1-15-44

ASK CONGRESS TO DECLARE 'FREEDOM DAY'

Daily World- Atlanta, Ga.

1-20-44

PHILADELPHIA — (ANP) — Dramatizing the universal cry for freedom today, the Negro is bringing it closer to the American home front by seeking the passage by congress of a proclamation declaring February 1 annual National Freedom Day to be observed all over the country, just as Independence Day, July 4, and Memorial Day, May 30, are duly recognized and fittingly set aside.

City-wide programs for school children, mass meetings and roundtable discussions will mark the occasion this year, when distinguished leaders from local and far points will be present in Philadelphia. Gov. Martin of Pennsylvania has already issued a proclamation setting it aside in this state, explaining its full significance.

According to a release from Harrisburg last week the governor stated: 1-20-44

"This significant date in American history is worthy of commemoration as marking a new era in human progress toward freedom and enlightenment."

Feb. 1 was selected by the promoter of this idea, Maj. R. P. Wright, because it marks the date in 1865 when the 13th Amendment for emancipating the slaves was signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

"Today, 79 years later, the observance takes on much broader aspects, for in freeing slave labor, the Emancipation proclamation at once dignified and made profitable free labor," Maj. Wright said.

"National Freedom day has in it the nucleus for a plan for new world organization to maintain and safeguard universal freedom."

"With these points in mind the program for the celebration is being anticipated by many ardent supporters of a national spirit of unity," a local minister observed.

On the program being held at Town hall in the evening will be J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of IBPOE of W; Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, nationally known educator, of North Carolina; Dr. F. D. Patterson, Miss Florence Read of Spelman College and Tax Commissioner Hubert Delaney of New York City, and others.

Representative At Freedom Day Event

Daily World- Atlanta Ga.

2-1-44

President Benjamin F. Hubert of Georgia State College was notified Monday by Governor Ellis B. Arnall of his appointment as representative of Georgia at the National Freedom Day observance in Philadelphia today.

The notification came to Dr. Hubert, while he was in Atlanta attending hte funeral of Dr. Charles D. Hubert, of Morehouse College. 2-1-44

Malcom Ross, chairman of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices; President Horace Mann Bond, of Fort Valley State College and Dr. Emmett J. Scott of the Sun Shipyard will be the principal speakers.

Major R. R. Wright, Philadelphia banker and first president of Georgia State College, is the sponsor of the event.

Hubert Named Ga.

America At War

Post

Washington, D.C.

By Selden Menefee

Post-Washington D.C.

Danger of Racism

5-18-44

AS THE WAR goes on, hatred for our enemies inevitably increases. Japan has been the main butt of this feeling so far, but as the invasion of Europe progresses it will be directed more and more against Germany as well.

Hatred is not necessarily bad, if it is hatred of evil. In this case it may help us fight the war harder. But it may not help us to win the peace, if it turns into an unreasoning racial feeling which refuses to recognize and encourage the anti-militarist groups within the enemy camp itself.

Today 57 out of every 100 Americans believe that the Japanese people will always want to go to war, according to a poll released this week by the National Opinion Research Center. Another 30 say that the people of Japan may not like war, but are too easily led by militaristic leaders. Only 13 out of 100 opine that "the Japanese people do not like war. If they could have the same chance as people in other countries, they would become good citizens of the world."

This division of opinion is now stable, having changed litile since September, 1942. Lack of education is an important factor: 48 per cent of those with college training, compared to 59 per cent of the high school group and 61 per cent of those who had never gone beyond grade school, think our Asiatic enemies are incorrigible. 5-18-44

We are much more charitable toward the Germans. A month ago an NORC poll found two-thirds of us convinced that most of the people living in Germany would like to get rid of their Nazi leaders now. Not that we are willing to absolve the German people from blame: the Fortune Survey has revealed that the proportion believing the people are responsible for Nazi aggression rose from 20 per cent in 1939 to 76 per cent at the end of 1943.

Controversy Over Germany

Common Sense Magazine for May charges that Rex Stout, chairman of the Writers' War Board, is stirring up racial antagonism by such statement as "I hate Germans, and am not ashamed of it," and "We cannot win what we are fighting for, a world fit to live in, unless we handle the German problem realistically and competently, and we cannot do that unless we are aware of the utter hatefulness of Germany and the Germans."

Also cited was a statement by Mr. Stout in opposition to the council of anti-Nazi Germans which was formed in New York on April 22. He said, "This is no time for Americans to work on the manufacture of a device for Germany's escape. It is time to teach Germany and the German people the only lesson they apply to others, the only lesson they understand: Force."

This is strong language. But it has a purpose. It is motivated by fear that we may place too much faith in the existence and effectiveness of a group of "good Germans," who will certainly not be strong enough to get rid of German militarism without our aid after the war. Such faith would play right into the hands of Dr. Goebbels and the Prussian militarists who hope for a "soft peace" so that they can start rebuilding their war machine. 5-18-44

I have just been reading the first monthly bulletin of the "Society for Prevention of World War III, Inc.", which organization is also headed by Rex Stout. It contains a cogent warning against the Pan-Germanic doctrine which has long made Germany a menace to the rest of the world. It stresses the necessity of destroying the Prussian military and Junker caste as well as the Nazis if lasting peace is to be achieved.

No Racism

But there is nothing here that smells of racism. Indeed, one article says, "Re-education of the German people cannot be effected by foreign teachers and educators. It can come only through a radical political re-orientation of the German people itself."

The necessity of a hard, a tough peace for our enemies can be reconciled, however, with the realization that their predisposition to aggression is the result of education and training and not an innate trait. Reeducation will be a long and difficult process, but not an impossible one.

Common sense is right in one thing: Racial hatred is dangerous. It would blind us to the forces that can be freed to fight fascism and militarism from within the enemy's own territory. It might also lead to a reaction such as we had after the orgy of hatred we permitted ourselves in World War I. Feeling contrite, we let Germany alone while she prepared this war.

The real danger, however, is in our attitude toward the Japanese, not toward the Germans. Here racial hatred is already in full bloom, and is even taken out on loyal Americans who happen to have Japanese ancestry.

Such feeling is not conductive to a lasting peace in the Far East. It can too easily lead to harsh peace terms without understanding, and without full extirpation of the social institutions which are responsible for Japan's own racism and militarism. Such a peace would be the surest guarantee of further aggression by the "Sons of Heaven."

Well—I Am A Negro

Tribune-Washington, D.C.

By Beatrice M. Murphy

1-1-44

(Editor's Note—Recently the daily and weekly press gave space, of course, to a letter from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt written for the Negro Digest under the caption "If I Were a Negro." Here we present Beatrice M. Murphy's "Well—I am a Negro." Miss Murphy is nationally known as a book reviewer and the compiler of "Negro Voices.")

I'll admit I have the advantage. I don't have to imagine what it is like to be a Negro; I know.

I feel the personal bitterness and the personal grievance of every American Negro today. I say "American Negro" because I feel no secret and peculiar kinship with all of the other darker races of the world. I am an American. Destiny made me one, and one I expect to remain.

Because I am an American, I am willing and eager to put my grievances on the shelf and throw my heart and soul into the fight against the forces which threaten to engulf my native land, leaving "family" grievances here within to be taken up and settled when we, as a nation, are no longer threatened from without. But make no mistake; I intend to help bring up this family discussion again later and to keep it going until those differences have been ironed out. I will not forget.

Because I am an American I believe in freedom, justice and the inalienienable rights of man. I believe in equality—all the way. I'm not going to encourage every Negro to rush out and rub elbows socially with every white man just to see what a white elbow feels like. Personally, I am utterly opposed to intermarriage because I think—selfishly I admit—that we ought to keep our talents within the race. I don't advocate the custom of "passing" because I think it is cheating—and I don't like cheat of any color. But, I believe—from the bottom of my heart and regardless of my personal feelings—that social relationships now, henceforth, and forever more are personal matters that no human being can control. Certainly in a democratic country I dislike having anyone pick my friends or control my personal contacts.

Two things I resent bitterly: the intolerable bad manners of seemingly cultured white people toward intelligent Negroes. There is at least some semblance of recourse against the rank and blatant injustices dealth out to us as Negroes, but what recourse has a cultured Negro who has been brought up as a lady or a gentleman to the sly innuendos—the daily rude insults to which he is subjected? 1-1-44

And—I resent bitterly and deeply the insincere fair weather champions in the white race who stand behind us for every bit of front page publicity they can get, and slink away when the same threatens to interfere with their personal safety or convenience. I don't like fence straddlers; and I, say if they aren't willing to take their chances on swimming or drowning they ought to stay out of the water!

Finally, I believe that the only way the Negro is going to get those things which are his right as a man and as an American citizen is through his own efforts—hard work and a grim fight for every inch of ground he will gain! There is no other way!

Conscious, But Not Too Conscious

The Plaindealer-Kansas City, Kansas

Something may properly be said for the increasing sense of race solidarity among our people in almost every community and throughout the nation. In the past it has been felt by many that one of the handicaps of colored people has been the lack of race consciousness, especially at the right time. 1-21-44

I.

In recent years and months there have been multiplied evidences of the constant increase in that which may be called race consciousness. This has been due to such factors as mutual oppressions and sufferings, as well as the understanding more and more of the value of close unity in the efforts to go forward along every line. Some doors that have been closed to our people are gradually being pushed open due to solidarity of interest and unity of effort growing out of this increasing sense of race consciousness. Despite the progress that has been made in that direction, it is well to remember that there is plenty of room for improvement. Let nobody be deceived regarding the value of intelligent, sane, persistent contention based upon the rights of others and supported by a united voice and will and determination of all the members of a group that may be affected. It has, more or less, always been a delusion for any group to depend wholly upon the benevolent support and condescension on the part of others to keep the path of progress open to them. Even those who have the time or the disposition to help people are more inclined to deposit that help in the interest of those who will put forth their own best efforts to achieve their own possibilities to the fullest extent of their power and resources. It is just a mistake to depend upon other people's doing for us the things we can do for ourselves. So race consciousness is on the increase, and we need more of it. We need to be conscious enough to suspend petty jealousies and to cease so much strife and bitterness so that the leaders in the various communities can work together for the common good of all. And with this common good may be tied up, not only the best interest of colored people, but also of white people and all others as well.

II.

While developing this race consciousness, let it extend so as to include the improvement of talents and opportunities which our people have. It is almost discouraging to friends of the race to witness vociferous contentions among our people for opportunities some of which we already have but do not use because of a lack of ability and industry and determination to make good. So, if we are going to be conscious let us be conscious of our talents and conscious of the pleas made for their development. If we are going to be conscious of some doors that are closed against us, let us also be conscious of the many doors that are already open and have been for many years and we seem not to be ready or willing to enter them. Not infrequently are some of our leaders embarrassed when they "go to the bat," so to speak, in making an effort to pry open certain doors for our group only to find that they must go back to make apologies for not having suitable persons to enter those doors after they have been pried open. 1-21-44

III.

It is well also to remember that in this matter of being race conscious that there are other groups who also find themselves actuated by a sense of race consciousness or, at least, class or group consciousness. It is silly to think that

colored people are the only ones who can be conscious in their effort to improve their conditions. There are others living in the same community who may be just as conscious of themselves and their friends as we are of ourselves and our friends. Understanding this fact is not a bad thing. To understand the viewpoint and group interest and persistent effort on the part of others may help to the proper appreciation of the value of cooperation and coordination of interest and efforts in order to be successful. Other groups who are conscious need not necessarily be antagonistic to our group. They may just be interested in their welfare to the point of wanting to improve their conditions first. It may not be due to hatred they have for others but due to the self respect and love they have for themselves and theirs.

IV.

There is such a thing as being too conscious of our race or the class to which we belong. Now, there are instances where the blame for failures to achieve progress has been placed upon color rather than upon character and efficiency. It is possible for members of our race group to be so conscious of being black that they forget that they have got to be prepared for the position and for the opportunity to which they feel themselves denied. It is all right to appeal to race pride when one goes into business but it is just as well, and perhaps better, to appeal for attention and patronage on the basis of quality of goods to be sold and the character of service to be rendered. And it is a mistake to conclude that when the people pass by a business place that they are passing because the owner happens to be black. They may be passing on to another place for no other reason except that it is the only way that they can get what they want. The same would apply to the professions and other walks of life. Men are not always turned down because they are black. it is sometimes because they do not have what the people want and are expected to pay for. It is sometimes due to unwillingness, their pre-disposition to carelessness and downright laziness, so as not to be ready to give the type of service the public demands. Race consciousness has a function, but it is rather dangerous to make it a substitute for quality of goods, character in living, and efficiency in service. It is time to begin to see and understand that the reason why some people don't get what they want and reach the place they desire is because they are not willing to pay the price. But the common apology that colored folk offer for having opportunity denied or kept back or shoved aside is because of their color. 1-21-44

Yes, let's be race conscious, but not too conscious.

THE TERM "NEGRO"!

Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

THE GUARDIAN has for many years opposed the use of the word "Negro" as a designation of our racial element. Today, we reproduce an article by Thos. H. R. Clarke of Washington, D. C., on the subject, printed in The GUARDIAN of Aug. 26, 1933. Preceding Mr. Clarke's article, is the editorial of our late editor as follows: 1-13-44

"DO AWAY WITH NEGRO"

We earnestly request that every reader of The GUARDIAN peruse carefully the statement in this edition of Thos. H. R. Clarke, under the caption, "As to term N-gro." We want every reader to know Mr. Clarke's reasons for opposing the use of the word 'Negro' as a race name.

AS TO TERM "NEGRO"

A highly educated young man was complaining today that some of the Washington newspapers had dropped the Capitol "N" in Negro and was substituting the "little n" instead.

Looking at the young man it was at once seen that he was about as far removed from the physical type which commonly passes in American for "Negro,' as the socalled "white" man who happened to be present.

He asked me what I thought about it. I replied that I didn't care a continental . . . what kind of an "N" was used since the word had no validity in the field of ethnology—that Africa had no NEGRO race or tribe, and that the word was improperly employed within the United States—that there was no Negro here now or at any time in the past. 1-13-44

The word NEGRO is perpetuated by racial prejudice and ignorance on the part of many whites, and by a group of PROFESSIONAL NEGROES—that is to say colored men and women who make a profession of being NEGROES and by another group of hypnotized colored men and women, who believe that the NEGRO has some high and mighty mission to perform in this country.

It is further perpetuated by an unsophisticated class of schooled colored men and women who are perfectly willing to be known as NEGROES, but wilt under the racial designation of NEGRESS applied to one of their women. 1-13-44

One of the latest publications on Africa, places all the African tribes North of the Equator with the Caucasian group and gives very intelligent reasons for this classification—stating that it is not a matter of color which determines the classification. All South of the Equator is placed in one general ethnic group BANTU, and then goes on to say that "the ZULU is the finest physical specimen of manhood in the World."

Now here we are within the United States, mixed with European, American Indian and a slight strain of Asiatic blood, insisting that we be designated by a term, first employed by a ruthless band of Spanish and Portugese pirates, which merely meant the skin color of the West African natives.

Battling for the big "N" is nonsense and a waste of valuable time in the effort to perpetuate a word, which means Remoteness from social and political influence, economic power and prestige.

THOS. H. R. CLARKE,
Washington, D. C.

—From Boston Guardian.

Race Consciousness Needed, Says Bond

Atlanta Daily World

LANGSTON, Okla., (ANP)—Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president of Ft. Valley State College, advised the 39 graduates of Langston that an enlightened race consciousness is the strongest weapon against prejudice and segregation, as he delivered the commencement address in the university auditorium May 24th. 6-4-44

The distinguished educator and author of three books outlined what he termed a proper "philosophy for minority action" in a bi-racial society. He warned that to avoid frustration and chronic discontent Negroes must accept the idea that they are destined to remain a separate minority in America for a long time to come.

They must not expect immediate integration into the majority pattern, but must devote their energies and talents to preparing themselves for the best life possible as a separate group, biology and psychologicaly. He declared that the great achievments of the Jews throughout the world have been the result of their acceptance of their lot as a separate minority and their wilingness to make that separate existence exemplary.

Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Bond, who formerly served on the faculty of Langston, as well as the faculties of Lincoln, Dillard, Fisk and Alabama state praised the great improvement the institutition has made through the years. He declared that Langston has asembled on its faculty a group of scholars that might well be the envy of many institutions of the nation. He also paid tribute to the Negroes of Oklahoma, labeling them as self-reliant and economically prosperous.

Dr. Dubois Goes On Lecture Tour

In Haitian Nation

Atlanta, Georgia Sept. 1, 1944

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, of the Bureau of Special Research, NAACP has been invited by the Government of Haiti to spend September in that country, lecturing on the history and culture of colored peoples.

The Science, Education and Art Division of the United States Department of State has offered to meet the expense of this trip and Dr. DuBois left New York for Haiti by airplane Sept. 1.

"Negro" Borrowed from the Spanish

Afro-American Daily

12-2-44

NEW YORK — Denying that the word "Negro" is an Americanism, H. L. Mencken in his article, "Designations for Colored Folk" in American Speech, asserts that it is the Spanish and Portuguese word for "black," and was borrowed by the English in the sixteenth century. 12-2-44

Stating that the word is capitalized by most American publications, Mr. Mencken says that colored publications have proposed many substitutes for such color designations, among them "group" and "race."

Race Consciousness Needed, Says Bond

World-Memphis Tenn.
6-9-44

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58c-1944

General

POWELL

CRISPUS ATTUCKS was a tough guy. Make no mistake about it. The First Martyr of the American Revolution was no sissy. He stood about 6 foot 3 and weighed 215 pounds. From the time he purchased his freedom until the Redcoats killed him, he lived a joyous, bubbling over life. He was thoroughly American in every sense of the word as it was then used. He loved nothing better than a good tavern brawl with no holds barred and the knuckles bared. Before he rang history's bell and retired from the scene his favorite occupation was heaving paving blocks at British soldiers.

Peoples Voice—New York, N.Y. 2-26-44

On the afternoon of March 5, 1770, the citizens of Boston sensed that they were treading on a volcano. There had been many disorders and street riots all during that week. Crispus Attucks and some of his friends had made up their minds that they were not going to stomach any longer the arrogance of the British Imperialistic troops. A strange company was gathered together that afternoon: Irish, Scots, English—all led by the former slave, Crispus Attucks. As they emerged and walked down King Street they met a detachment of the hated Redcoats. Crispus Attucks yelled, "This is the nest! Strike at the root!" and the paving blocks began to fly.

A British soldier named Montgomery leveled his flint musket and fired the shot that started the war of Independence that resulted on July 4, 1776, with "One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Crispus Attucks fell, mortally wounded — first Martyr of the American Revolution. 2-26-44

It is altogether fitting and proper that this martyr, too long ignored, and the incident of the Boston Massacre, now be taught to Democracy's children.

In response to a resolution of mine The Council of the City of New York unanimously set aside Fri., Mar. 5, 1943, as Crispus Attucks Day. On that night a community celebration will take place. It is altogether fitting that groups, white and colored, everywhere so observe that evening. It marks the first time that the City of New York has named a day after a Negro. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History should be congratulated for initiating this project. It comes at a very fitting time. Democracy's children are passing through a crisis from which will emerge real Democracy or true American Fascism. One of the signs of the times was the acceptance by the New York City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of the invitation to attend the special Crispus Attucks Services.

Democracy is marching on. Setbacks are only temporary. Defeats cannot last. Crispus Attucks set in motion a "wheel in a wheel" that can be slowed up, now and then, but can never be stopped until there is full Demorcracy for all people.

[Editor's Note: Last year Editor Powell wrote this article on New York City's observance of Crispus Attucks Day, marking the first occasion the City had named a day after a Negro. We reprinted that "Soapbox" this week to remind New Yorkers of the day and the REASON for remembering it. Following on the heels of Negro History Week, this reminder also points up news about brown heroes of this war in this week's PV.] 2-26-44

Says Blind Race Consciousness Sows Seeds For New War

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

ROANOKE, Va. — If blind race consciousness is not checked the seeds are now being sown for the third World War which will be even more terrible than this one, warned Dr. Willis J. King of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., principal speaker on the special Race Relations Service conducted at Green Memorial Methodist Church, Sunday, February 13. 2-26-44

By solving its own race problem satisfactorily, America will be accepting the God-given opportunity and responsibility to help the entire world in the solution of its collective racial and national problems, Dr. King declared.

Already the United States has gained the world-wide reputation of being capable of solving international, and interdenomination problems in its short history, the speaker said, and the current racial problems in this country present a "laboratory" in which to work towards world brotherhood.

TWO VIEWS HELD

Approximately 650 members of the black and white race, the Jewish and Gentile creeds, filled the auditorium in the special observance of Race Relations Sunday. Appearing on the program were: the Rev. William M. Scott, who introduced the speaker; Dr. J. Manning Potts, the Rev. R. Edward Dowdy, Rabbi Bernard Zeiger and the Rev. A. L. James.

Speaking on the theme, "American Race Problems in the International Scene," the speaker explained that there were two views of our problems—one, that there is a minority group that is a blot of the landscape that needs to be removed; and the other, the minority group is a race on which to try out missionary practices.

Between these two extremes, the speaker said there are those who want to see the problem worked out, but only a few of these, he went on, realize that the problem has gone far beyond just the question of black versus white in the United States.

Tracing the advance of the European culture of the Latins, Greeks and Teutonic peoples, Dr. King asserted that the strides in science and culture advancement by the white race has been thrilling, but exclaimed that the consequences of these rapid successes had caused the European descendants to feel correspondingly superior. 2-26-44

MADE RACE WAR

This feeling of superiority, he explained, has been relatively recent. Japan, he said, tried her hardest to have injected into the treaty at Paris following the last war an amendment concerning the equality of races. The Japanese entry into the present conflict, he pointed out, has made the war virtually a "race war."

EMBARRASSED IN CHINA

Calling attention to the fact that over two-thirds of the population of the world is of the colored races, the speaker said that considerable embarrassment to him was caused in China several years ago when Chinese students asked him if Negroes were not lynched in America. "I was embarrassed," he said, "as an American Christian to have to answer in the affirmative."

DR. WILLIS J. KING

Affirming that the race problem must be viewed in the light of its world relation, Dr. King called for a reasserting to our ideals — the Bill of Rights, Civil war amendments, and the Four Freedoms. "Let's go on dreaming of world brotherhood," he challenged, "for that is what the world is coming to." 2-26-44

PRESENT GENERATION

No one in the present generation, he stated, can be blamed for the initiation of the race problem, but the main difficulty to be overcome by interested people is impatience on the part of those working towards world brotherhood. "God has all the time in the world," he said, "and nowhere do we hear of Him being in a hurry."

No mass government will be the ultimate answer to our problems, Dr. King declared, for Christianity never got anywhere with any mass movement. The solution to the problem in the United States presents "to us an opportunity for world leadership."

PROPOUNDS QUESTIONS

Among the angles by which the problem may be approached, the speaker said, are the answering of several questions — "What are the chances of America's becoming a genuine democracy?" and "How do the achievements of the Negro in the past stand up as far as future usefulness of the race is concerned?" In answer to the first, Dr. King said that our nation is still extremely young, comparing America's oldest shrine, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, about 200 years; and the old religious shrine of China almost 4,000 years old. "The second question almost answers itself," the speaker said, naming Marian Anderson, Washington Irving, George Washington Carver and others.

"With the solution of the race problem, America will rightfully assume world leadership in a better world of tomorrow," he concluded.

Bojangles's Jokes Not Welcome at Ky. School

Afro American—Baltimore, Md.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — (ANP) — Declaring that he had become disgusted with the "Uncle Tom" antics of tap dancer Bill Robinson who was appearing on the stage of a theatre here, Atwood Wilson, principal of the Central High School, last week refused the offer of the theatre management to have Robinson appear in the school auditorium during chapel exercises. 3-4-44

The refusal of the invitation so angered Robinson that he took time out during his performance at the theatre to inform his audience that he had been "insulted by that little principal at the colored high school."

Wilson's action followed Robinson's earlier appearance at the Madison Junior High School, where he is reported to have told some jokes that were off-color and in poor taste before an audience of teen-age youngsters.

Management of the theatre where Bojangles was appearing, thinking colored people would flock to see Robinson, upped the gallery admission price from its usual 25 cents to 60 cents. The plan failed, for only a few climbed the long flight of stairs to witness the performance.

CONGRESSMEN AGAINST RACISM

Informer—Housten, Texas

NAACP's Walter White performed a much needed service when he polled U. S. senators and representatives on their attitudes toward the Smith (South Carolina) and Rankin (Miss.) hate attacks. We have often raised the question of how much congressional sanction was given to the explosive race baiting tactics of the indefatigable obstructionist, the Hon. Rankin. The NAACP Bulletin for February reports the results of Mr. White's poll. Although the statements of fellow congressmen indicate that as a whole they are against racism in any form; these hate attacks continue, and unfortunately leave their marks in very tangible

ways. It may be that a continuous increase in the payment of poll taxes by Negroes in states which send objectionable poll-tax representatives may serve to allay the force of racism that is noticeably rampant in the congressional chambers. 3-11-44

Beware Racism!

In anticipation of a meeting in New York to organize a council of democratic Germans in this country, Rex Stout, formerly best known as a writer of detective stories but in recent years conspicuous as chairman of the Writers War Board, advertised his objection in *The Times*. In this instance, he signed himself as president of the "Society for the Prevention of World War III, Inc." Mr. Stout lives up to his name with respect to the propagandist interests he looks after, but one is led to doubt that his thinking is as clear as it might be because of the volume and drive of these activities. Age-Herald—Birmingham, Ala.

In any event, speaking of these refugees whose good faith he could not attack (at least as chairman of the Writers' Board which has almost official standing) Mr. Stout declared: "All the members of this new committee call themselves anti-Nazi. No doubt they are anti-Nazi. But today, after four and a half years of war, we must ask them bluntly: Is repudiation of Hitler and naziism enough? Perhaps it is for some Germans. But is it enough for the United Nations . . . We have been fooled once by a so-called German 'democracy.' Must we be fooled again? This is no time for Americans to work on the manufacture of a device for Germany's escape. It is time to teach Germany and the German people the only lesson they apply to others, the only lesson they understand: Force. A 'respectable' German may, with guidance, some day develop only if our actions are inspired by our past experience. But let us beware of booby traps!" 5-13-44

This ad, says *Common Sense*, "reveals an attitude toward organizations of democratic Germans that is shared by Goebbels and Himmler. Its appearance is perhaps unique in the history of responsible journalism. It is reminiscent of the sniveling Ku Klux Klan handbill warning union organizers, or Jews, or Negroes, to get out of town. It is virtually incitement to lynching." And yet *Common Sense* should not be surprised because, as it has noted, Mr. Stout has gotten so emotionally involved that he has proudly vaunted his hatred of Germans. He's all for handling the German problem "realistically and competently." What he means is indicated by his assertion that realism is based on "utter hatefulness of Germany and the Germans."

No wonder *Common Sense* observes that "there is danger that we will come through this war victims of rampant racism—hating Germans as Germans, crying for blind vengeance."

No one wants to be "soft" or sentimental about the German people. But we ought at least to guard against growing so blind with hatred toward them that we become the slaves of our own rancor. Surely the Russians have suffered more than we have and yet the Soviet government has fostered some such organization as that which Stout warns us against. 5-13-44

Is there any reason for us to forego the use of such a weapon for the purposes of political warfare?

Is there any good reason for us to reject the moral and intellectual aid of such refugees as Mann and Einstein and a host of other great men whom Hitler drove out of Germany?

Colgate Using Negro Models In Octagon Soap "Ads"

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va 4-15-44

NEW YORK — The Colgate Palmolive Peet Company is featuring Negro models in its Octagon advertisements in the Negro press for the first time.

The makers of Octagon said, "After making a thorough study of types of copy that will appeal to different types of audiences, we decided that attractive Negro subjects would be most appealing to the Negro women in their papers, so we have begun using them. We are very pleased with the acceptance our products are receiving in Negro homes throughout the country and it was due largely to this widespread acceptance that we decided to appeal directly to the American Negro homemaker through the Negro press. 4-15-44

"We are proud to be of service to such an appreciative market."

'NEGRO' FOREIGN WORD

Designations for Colored Folk Traced by H. L. Mencken

The word Negro is not an Americanism but the Spanish and Portuguese word for "black," and was borrowed by the English during the sixteenth century, according to H. L. Mencken in his article, "Designations for Colored Folk," in American Speech.

"By 1587 a northern English form 'neger,' had appeared, and it was from this that both the Irish 'naygur' and the English-American 'nigger' were derived," Mr. Mencken finds.

The word Negro now is capitalized by most American publications, and in the movement to achieve this "the true pioneer seems to have been Lester Aglar Watson, a colored journalist, who was made Minister to Liberia in 1935."

Other Negro publicists, Mr. Mencken says, "have proposed various substitutes for any designation pointing directly to color, among them 'race' and 'group.' One suggestion, 'racemen,' has survived more or less and the word 'group' is really flourishing. Many of the Negro newspapers use 'our group,' 'group man,' 'group leader.'

Dustin' off the NEWS

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

By LUCIUS C. HARPER

WHAT NEGRO HAVE WE PAUSED TO HONOR AS GREAT?

4-8-44

THE AVERAGE colored American, who knows nothing of the past history of his race and cares nothing for the future because he cannot dare to think a day ahead for the interest of his own kind, lives his life in the present and for the present only. Future speculations and research work beneath the surface are for people with universal interest. The universe of the ordinary colored American lies, it seems to me, within his own life and his imagination is limited to the sphere of his personal experience, and that is all that exists and matters for him. Future and past hardly ever come to his mind in connection to the indirect social benefit he receives daily. He finds his greatest enjoyments in physical gratifications and deems ease as the highest good in life. He does not comprehend indirect benefit when he gets it from the efforts of others. That's the reason the Negro knows so little about his past history, and seems to care less about it. 4-8-44

L. C. Harper

We are just winding up the study of Negro history. It was given a week in February, and due to some far-sighted students in various colleges and schools over the country, it went far into March. That is as it should be; it's something we cannot over-stretch or over-emphasize. The idea of setting aside a period in each year for the study of our history was developed by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, noted historian, of Washington, D. C., who began life as a section crew worker on a railroad and his hunger for knowledge of the history and background of his own people finally gained him a Ph.D. degree from Harvard university. He is "one of the few Negroes who finished Harvard and recovered," as the late Henry Lincoln Johnson used to remark. He has used his knowledge for the benefit of others, and not himself alone. 4-8-44

* * *

IT WAS and is a splendid idea —this study of Negro history—but it has not been appreciated nor developed to its fullest possibilities. The idea was born some 18 years ago, yet it has not penetrated into the deepest sphere of Negro life, that is the church. Very few of these spiritual centers have as yet established Negro history study clubs in connection with their racial uplift programs. Why they haven't remains a mystery. Outside the notices carried in the columns of the Negro press; a few spurts here and there in certain cities that sandwiches it in with other civic programs, little has been done to make Negro history week really count for and mean something to the race as a whole. Every Negro church in America, regardless of size, should have a Negro history study club teaching such information of the nature that would aid in the creation and establishment of a standard race pride and respect. 4-8-44

Alongside its religious program, this great social agency should infuse in the minds of the young generation and make clear and unequivocal in the minds of the fathers and mothers that black men—heroes, too—have joined hands with white men down through the ages in making this world habitable and civilized. Common-place facts of history should be the first to be considered and perhaps the history of the black man in America should be treated before all else.

Along with the sermons of the warriors in holy times who fought for better things for mankind should also go a few sermons on the Negro warriors of modern times like Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, Salem Poor, Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, on down to A. Philip Randolph, and other scintillating characters in the development of this nation. The status of every monument erected in this country in memory of our heroes should be established in the minds of all. The genius of these characters should be stressed and emphasized. Our great Negroes should be made immortal and such a halo of glory ought to be placed around them that their memories would fire the minds, challenge the admiration and point us to high endeavor and great achievement. Every other race has done and continues to do this very thing. Almost every calendar is dotted with holidays dedicated to the great white men of this nation. Where is a calendar in this year, 1944, dotted with the names, the birthdays of the great Negroes? Are we to teach our own to worship only those heroes in other races? Negro history handled and diffused in this fashion would tend to break down the dread inferiority complex and would give us a clearer knowledge of the stock from which we have sprung. 4-8-44

*

JUST WHAT we have contributed to medieval and ancient history could then be considered and our part in civilization could be appreciated even from its birth, in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates, known as Mesopotamia. Very few of us know that there was a black man in Napoleon's academy. Very few know that Hannibal was a black man; very few know that black men helped Columbus discover America; very few know that black men really won the Civil War. If this be done perhaps the tricky pen of the white recorder of events might not set findings down prejudicial to our future interests. 4-8-44

Germany has its Hitler, but it still memorializes Bismark, the Kaiser and von Hindenburg; England has its Churchill, but it still reveres Lord Kitchener, Blackstone and Lord Nelson; America has its Roosevelt, Eisenhower and MacArthur, but it still honors George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and General Grant. What black man have we paused to applaud and honor as great within the past ten years, with the possible exception of Joe Louis? The perpetuation and production of our history is part of the plan of eternal vigilance that we must pay for liberty. Every agency within our control should be utilized in presenting the facts of Negro history to our people. Surely, the church, the temple of historic preachments, and the house of recreation!

Hits Use Of 'Nigger' In Dictionary

Tribune—Savannah

12-21-44

NEW YORK—Letters were sent December 12 by the NAACP to Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy and Ted Poston, CWI News bureau, protesting offensive use and definition of the word "nigger" in a pocket size English-French dictionary widely used in Belgium.

The matter was brought to the attention of the association through a letter from a Negro GI in that area who said: "I don't believe it is the intention of the Belgium people to insult us because they are exceptionally friendly us us, but that it is an unfortunate situation on the part of the person or persons responsible for printing these books." 12-21-44

In suggesting steps to be taken by the war department to eliminate this humiliation to Negro soldiers, the NAACP said:

"In the English-French section, "nigger" is defined as 'negre' meaning a black man. In the section of the dictionary giving simple short conversational phrases occurs the sentence, 'the niggers are with you, where do they come from?'

"This dictionary is not issued by the United States military authorities as far as we can determine, but this association feels certain that United States military officials in Belgium can make known to the Belgium people the way American Negro soldiers feel about the use of this word. We suggest that an announcement over the radio and in the Belgium newspapers will help correct the situation."

58c-1944

Negro Freedom Rally

New Times

by Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.

Negro Freedom Rally at Garden Was the Beginning

Worker—New York, N.Y.

THE SECOND Negro Freedom Rally, held in Madison Square Garden on June 26, recorded the unity of the Negro people behind the Commander-in-Chief to back the invasion, to win the war and the peace, and to achieve, as a part of the victory, the immediate, unconditional citizenship of Negro Americans in all walks of life. It was nonpartisan — Republicans, Democrats, American Labor Party members, independents and organizations of all types participated. It was political—it took a progressive stand on the merits of the major issues facing the Negro people and the nation. It was united, irrespective of race, creed or color. For only through nonpartisanship—that is, the abandonment of special, narrow interests, party or otherwise—can unity be achieved.

7-9-44

The follow-through is of supreme importance. The Garden rally was only the beginning. The clear implication of the meeting was that the full citizenship of the Negro, and other minorities, can only be achieved through the coalition of all the labor and democratic forces of the country to guarantee the reelection of President Roosevelt and a pro-Roosevelt Congress. We have now to put this into effect by building a real people's political machine, conscious of its responsibilities and its opportunities, a machine which will draw its first blood from reaction by the victory of Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Vito Marcantonio in all three primaries — Republican, Democratic and American Labor Party—on Aug. 1.

* * *

WHAT happened at the Republican National Convention in Chicago leaves us no alternative and impresses upon us the decisiveness of the time element. The field in which this Hoover-Taft dominated convention tried to make a glittering show of progressivism was Negro rights. This, however, was only demagogy, which a record of Republican deeds in Congress will show. The most scathing criticism of what went on in Chicago is to be had from a Negro Republican leader, Wm. O. Walker of Cleveland and from other Negro Republicans.

Meanwhile, Walter Lippmann, chief columnist on the Republican Herald Tribune, has already attack the Republican platform as a "program for chaos," "irresponsible and a disgrace." But it would be foolish to underestimate the effect and strategy of the Republican high command, which is to divide the electorate on false and confusing issues, and to pose as the "Negro's friend" although the rest of the nation goes to pot—a position which is utterly impossible. To expose the Republican game — particularly among Republicans—and to organize concrete and effective opposition to it is our principal task in the next days—not weeks. 7-9-44

Norman Littell, Asst. U. S. Atty.-Gen. who spoke at the Garden rally, did not help. He missed the whole spirit of the war, the justifiable mood of Negroes, and the meaning of the postwar objectives which the President helped to draft at Teheran. But the rebuke he got from the audience rubbed his nose in the Teheran perspective since it seems he must learn the hard way. Teheran means security, liberation and full equality for all peoples and opens the path to their realization. This was what the Negro Rreedom Rally was about—that is, a determination to see that the promise of Teheran is translated into life.

* * * 7-9-44

NEGROES don't support Roosevelt on the assumption he is a Messiah. There are still millions of ill-housed Negroes and whites. Negroes are not supporting Roosevelt because they are satisfied with the limited gains achieved through his Administration. They support him because they are dissatisfied, because they want partial gains extended into full and unconditional citizenship and because the anti-Roosevelt camp has fought bitterly against every improvement in the Negro's status. They support him because his foreign and domestic policies make possible the purification of American democracy at home, because Roosevelt symbolizes the coalition of the most progressive forces of the country, with labor—its most advanced section, the CIO—as the backbone. That's what the Garden rally proved.

7-9-44

The reelection of Roosevelt means a strengthening of this coalition—labor, the Negroes, Jews, all minorities and other democratic Americans irrespective of class, race or religion. The alternative to Roosevelt—Hoover, Taft, Dewey and Bricker—is placing the country in the hands of the CIO-labor baiters, the confusionists, the powers that would destroy the democratic coalition which is moving toward the end of jimcrow and a better America.

Toward Freedom

An Open Letter to Ass't Atty.-Gen. Littel

Daily Worker—New York, N.Y.

DEAR Mr. Littel:

I want to explain why you were booed and hissed at the Negro Freedom Rally at Madison Square Garden last Monday. There are lessons in that experience which you and many other white speakers before Negro audiences need quickly to learn. 7-3-44

First, you were booed and hissed because of your own prejudice against the Negro people. You are prejudiced, Mr. Littel. Otherwise, when facing that magnificent audience at a Negro Freedom Rally, you would have spoken out against the travesties in democracy which anti-Negro discriminations represent. Instead, you tried to placate an aroused people with the sophistry that everybody—even yourself!—suffers from some discriminations.

Did you observe the hearty ovations given to Rabbi Stephen Wise, Representative Vito Marcantonio and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia? They are militant fighters against racial discrimination, not mere philosophical observers of such injustices. They made clear their firm alliance with the Negro's wartime struggles for greater freedom. This you failed to do, because you do not feel that way.

I do not accuse you of vicious and militant prejudice. Yours is but a comfortable, stuffed-shirt contentment with things as they are. But despite the pro-Negro gesture you had to make, and did, that mature audience of 25,000 progressive Negro and white Americans sensed from the beginning your basic insincerity.

Remember this: Whoever opposes or fails vigorously to champion the cause of Negro freedom can now exercise no influence over the Negro people.

* * *

SECOND, you were booed and hissed because you presumed to tell an audience with deeper political understanding than your own that the Negro should forget his discriminations in the larger interests of the war. This was your major blunder, and doubtless grows out of your own political shallowness. 7-3-44

There was no lack of sincere win-the-war sentiment in that audience. How proudly they acclaimed their heroes from the 99th Pursuit Squadron and the U. S. Merchant Marine! How graciously they honored the two recipients of "Miss Negro War Worker" awards! With what enthusiasm they applauded every speaker's call for all-out support of the war effort!

That audience had even greater win-the-war fervor than you. They also had something which you lacked completely—a clear understanding that anti-Negro discriminations, both in civilian and military life, are a serious threat to national unity and a major obstacle to victory. They understood that the whole rotten system of jimcrow must be uprooted—NOW, precisely because of the urgent necessity to destroy fascism and build an enduring peace.

* * *

FOR a Negro leader or a sincere friend of the Negro to recite the wartime gains of the Negro people would have been entirely acceptable. He would then have gone on to call for even more vigorous struggle to hasten this progressive trend. But you listed these gains with the more or less explicit suggestion that Negroes should now be willing to keep quiet about the still remaining discriminations and devote their energies to winning the war—as if the two were separate movements. That was your fatal error.

Remember this: Whoever is thoroughly and sincerely devoted to the paramount aims of victory and a just peace will now struggle to remove the jimcrow obstacles to their attainment. 7-3-44

At first I flinched when you were booed and hissed, because you were supposed to be a representative of the Administration. . . . Upon reflection, however, I realized that you were but an innocuous representative of the equally inept Attorney General who is your Chief. The genuine enthusiasm with which that audience greeted every reference to the slogan, "Victory with FDR in 1944," convinced me that you had done no harm to our great Commander-in-Chief.

I now think it was wholesome for you to be hissed and booed. It may teach you and many like you some important lessons.

Representing the Views of Intelligent Negroes.

World-Telegram New York, N.Y.

By George Manning:

Thank you for your article written by Mr. Woltman on the so-called "Negro Freedom Rally." It is fortunate that we have men in our midst like Frank Crosswaith who are able to analyze and see clearly the tactics of our erstwhile Communist "friends" who insist upon freeing us all over again by giving "freedom rallies" in Madison Square Garden.

It is obvious to most of us that as usual they are up to their old tricks of using an issue to get over their propaganda. In this instance, all they were doing, of course, was advertising the candidates they are backing for public office and thus giving them the well known kiss of death. 7-7-44

It is unfortunate that because we are a minority group we are often so gullible that we are easily taken in by groups such as the Communists who seek to do nothing but exploit us.

The Communists will continue to give "freedom rallies" as long as they suit their purpose, but we who stop to think know that it is necessary to use much more constructive means to bring about the freedom which is due all the peoples of the world. That is what we are fighting for and have been fighting for long before the Communists decided to stop picketing the White House and shouting that this was "an imperialistic war," and "the yanks are not coming."

Again, thank you for publishing this enlightening article by Mr. Woltman giving the views of Frank Crosswaith, noted anti-Communist, who advocates freedom but is intelligent enough to point out to his people those who seek to use us.

Manhattan.

Unity Displayed At Freedom Rally

Atlanta Daily World 9-13-'44
Atlanta, Ga.

Unity of air, land and sea is seen at the great Negro Freedom Rally which was attended by more than 25,000 Negro and white persons in Madison Square Garden, in New York City, on Monday night, June 26. Shown, left to right, are Capt. Charles B. Hall, hero of the 99th Pursuit Squadron and winner of the Distinguished Flying Cross; the co-winners for "Miss Negro Victory Worker of 1944," Miss Aurelia Carter of Yonkers, N. Y., an employee of the Otis Elevator Company and representative of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Shop Workers of America, CIO; and Miss Edna Rucker of Detroit, an employee of the Ford Rouge River Plant, representing the United Automobile Workers, CIO, and Capt. Hugh Mulzac, skipper of the Liberty Ship, "Booker T. Washington."

Rally Tonight Salutes Negro Gains

Daily Worker- New York, N.Y.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Channing H. Tobias, the great Negro Freedom Rally will take place at Madison Square Garden tonight. Time is 7:30 p.m. 6-26-44

Thousands of New Yorkers, in addition to thousands from Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Bridgeport, Baltimore and New Haven, are expected to jam the Garden to the rafters as Negro and white pay tribute to FDR and the Allied invasion. Also saluted will be the Negro people for contributions to the war and gains made during the past few years.

Highlighting the array of speakers will be Mayor LaGuardia, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Charles A. Collins, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, and Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. Dr. Tobias, chairman, is a senior secretary of the national YMCA and a member of the National Army and Navy Welfare Committee, FDR's top committee for service personnel. He is also a member of the board of trustees at Howard University.

A surprise feature of the rally will be the appearance of Capt. Charles B. Hall, famed Negro aviator, who has won the Distinguished Flying Cross. Capt. Hall, a member of the all-Negro Ninety-ninth Fighter Squadron which has operated in the Mediterranean area since April 1943, is credited with shooting four of the 17 planes knocked out by his squadron over North Africa, Sicily and the Anzio beachhead. Capt. Hall is a native of Brazil, Ind., where he interrupted a pre-medical course at Eastern Illinois Teachers College to join the Air Force. He was a member of the first Negro Aviation cadet class to be graduated from the Tuskegee, Ala., Training School.

In addition to the speakers, stars from nine Broadway shows will be on hand. The stars include Paul Robeson, Victor Jory, Elisabeth Bergner, Irina Baronova, Muriel Smith, J. Edward Bromberg, Philip Loeb and David Leonard. 6-26-44

MAYOR LaGUADIA

REV. A. CLAYTON POWELL

VITO MARCANTONIO

PAUL ROBESON

BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR.

RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE

CHARLES A. COLLINS

A DRAMATIC PAGEANT

New World A-Coming, a tremendous pageant written by Owen Dodson on the book by Roi Ottley, will be a top feature. Presenting Canada Lee, Pearl Primus, Will Geer, Langston Hughes, Josh White, Abie Mitchell, Marie Young, and a cast of 100, it will show in a series of powerful sequences the history of the Negro people in our country and the mutual role which Negro and white must play to make the new world come.

Another highlight of tonight's event will be presentation of awards to Miss Negro Victory Worker of 1944. On hand to make the presentation will be Judge Hubert P. Delany, well known Negro leader and Domestic Relations Court judge. This year the award goes to co-winners Edna Rucker of Local 600, CIO Auto Workers of Detroit, and Aurelia Carter, Local 453, CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of Yonkers.

UNIONISTS PARTICIPATE

From Detroit, W. G. Grant and Shelton Tappes, officials in Local 600, are flying to New York to witness the award to Miss Rucker.

The Negro Freedom Rally will be an important event in the election campaign since it will speak directly to the Negro voter and will tell of the gains made under FDR's leadership. Some of these gains include:

1—Hiring of Negroes on the railroads.

2—Election of Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., as the first Negro Communist ever voted into U. S. public office.

3—The historic Supreme Court decision on the right of Negroes to vote in primaries.

4—Adoption of the anti-bias housing bill by the New York City Council and Board of Estimate.

5—Commissioning of 20 Negroes Navy officers.

6—Election of Charles H. Collins to the vice-presidency of the N. Y. State American Labor Party and of Ferdinand Smith to the executive board of the national CIO. Nomination of Rev. A. Clayton Powell for Congress. 6-26-44

7—The defeat of Martin Dies and many of his henchmen.

Tonight's rally has the strongest support of labor, civic, church and community groups and is sponsored by the Peoples Committee, affiliated with 83 organizations, and the Negro Labor Victory Committee, with 107 representatives from the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods.

The Negro Freedom Rally

Daily Worker - New York, N.Y.

A NEW WORLD is a coming, the Negro people are helping to bring that world, expect to share in it as equals and won't take No for an answer—that was the theme of Monday night's great Negro Freedom Rally in Madison Square Garden. It was likewise the theme of a similar rally in Chicago on the same night. Twice in two years, the Negro people have demonstrated at such meetings their convictions, hopes, and demands. Taken together, a new high point has been reached, but not for the Negro people alone. Here is a phenomenon of which the entire labor and progressive coalition behind the President can be proud. 6-28-44

The great turnout, with more than 25,000 people overflowing the Garden, went on record unconditionally in support of early victory and a postwar world such as is envisaged in the Teheran accord. The living participation of Negroes in the war was dramatized in the presence of several symbolic figures: Capt. Hugh Mulzac, outstanding in our merchant marine; Capt. Charles B. Hall, of the famous 99th Squadron in our air force; or the two Miss Negro Victory Workers, representing distinction on the production front.

They Want No Favors

But with equal depth of feeling this great unity demonstration quivered in protest against the discrimination that Negro American soldiers suffer because their skin happens to be black. They felt intensely the denial of democracy that persists in our armed forces, and even more the insidious spread of this discrimination from the

South to the North.

In other words, while the Negro people understand that victory in this war means victory of democracy over world barbarism, they are determined that during and after victory, democracy shall also come in all its aspects to the Negro citizens of this country.

In this, they ask no favors: they demand basic rights. They know that their own unity is a prerequisite for winning those rights. They expect nothing without fighting for it. But they also know that they can count upon white progressives, especially in the labor movement, for assistance. They are proud that more and more, it is the American labor movement, and particularly the CIO, which practices such democracy. With such forces, the Negro people are increasingly united.

They sense and know that only through the President's policies can their demands be heard and realized. Failure to support the President would be to open a path for reaction in the nation, for demagogues of all kinds; on the other hand, grievances of today—jimcrow in the army, discrimination in employment—these rankle, and must be overcome immediately.

A United People

The Negro people are on the march. They are united. They will not tolerate words where deeds alone can solve issues. They are deep in political action, and will not brook traitors to their cause no matter what his skin. They have made tremendous gains like the Supreme Court's nullification of the Texas White Supremacy practices, and the achievements of the FEPC. They want these gains to be permanent, to be genuine, and for this they are fighting hand in hand with all progressives, with Labor, with the President. 6-28-44

You could sense this in the acclamation for Rep. Vito Marcantonio, and support for his reelection. You could sense this in the pride that Adam Clayton Powell will sit in Congress. You could sense this in the understanding of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise's excellent appeal for a common fight against anti-Semitism and jimcrow, as twin evils of fascism encroaching on democracy. You could sense it in the tribute to Charles Collins, a Negro trade union leader, exemplifying the democracy that comes of union organization, and likewise in the homage for Ferdinand Smith, a member of the CIO's executive.

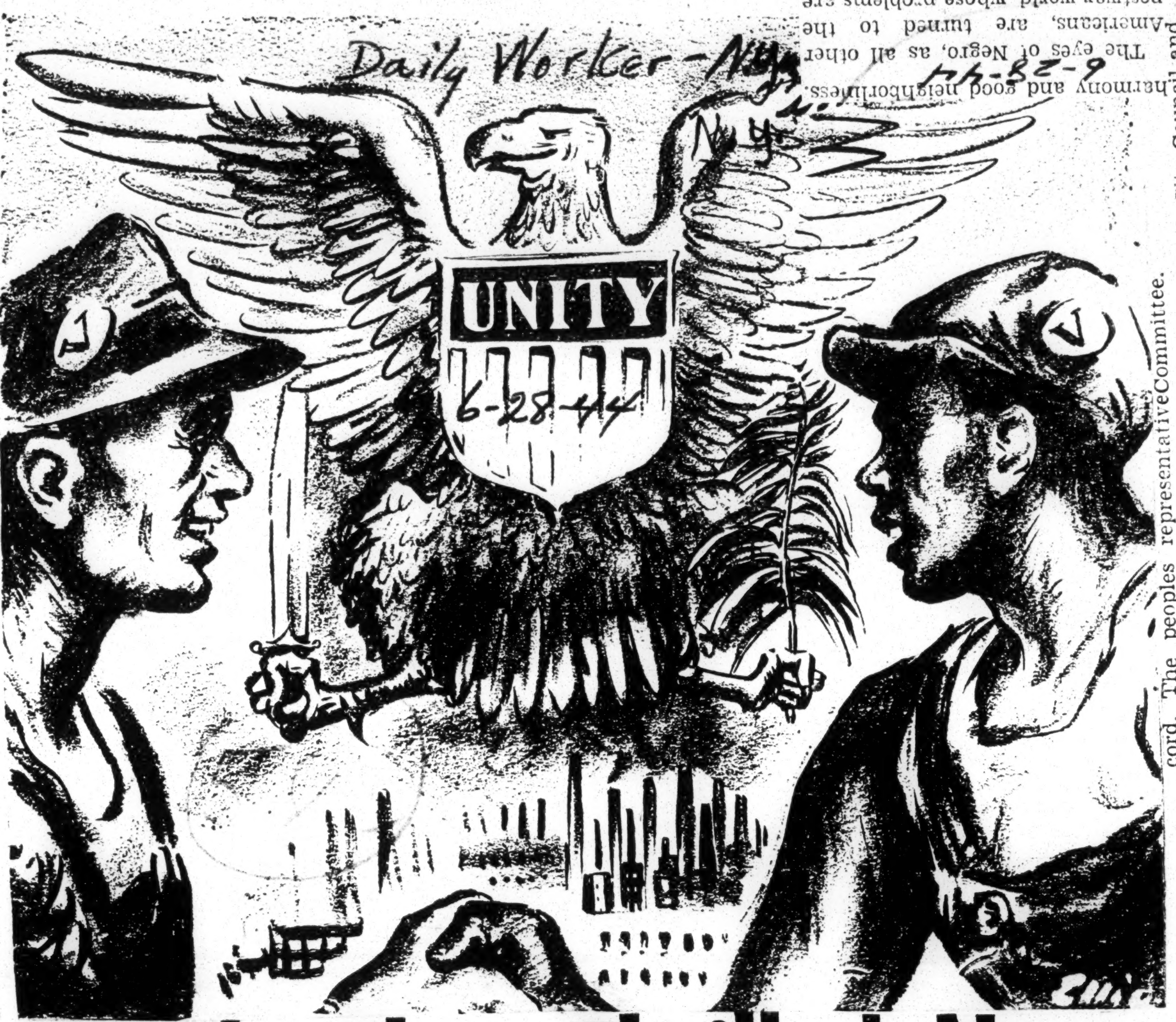
You could sense it in the reception for Councilmen Benjamin J. Davis Jr., a symbol of the democracy that is ingrained and living in the Communist movement. You could sense it at every point where this vast assemblage gave its applause, or denied its applause, or expressed its disapproval of a particular point or speaker.

American can be proud of these Negro Freedom rallies, and what they imply. A new day is dawning, in battle, in hardship, in heartache, but surely coming.

Triumphant everywhere, democracy can and will be won for all Americans, irrespective of color and creed. The Negro people are in the vanguard of this battle, and will share fully in victory's fruits.

THE SPIRIT OF THE FREEDOM RALLY

Daily Worker-N.Y. N.Y.



Words That Thrilled Negro Freedom Rally

Daily Worker-New York N.Y.

Following are excerpts from speeches at the Negro Freedom Rally at Madison Square Garden by the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., candidate for Congress; Charles A. Collins, of the AFL Hotel and Club Employes Union and Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Communist and Councilman: 6-28-44

The Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.:

We serve notice tonight that the day has finally arrived when no bigoted, race-hating, anti-Semitic, labor-baiting, jim-crowing, un-American minority is going to be able to stand up against the righteous wrath of a united American people.

We have already purged from the South Gene Talmadge, Joe Starnes, Joe Simpson and Martin Dies. We are going to continue this people's purge. This year we are going to vote for only those candidates who are 100 percent win-the-war, win-the-peace, pro-labor and who will guarantee full and equal citizenship now to every American.

The Negro voter is ready. The Negro electorate is united as never before. We refuse to continue as second class citizens, we refuse to allow any longer 6,000,000 whites and 4,000,000 blacks in eight polltax states to be politically disinherited. We refuse to give our best in time of war and then have the doors of employment in the world of peace closed in our faces. As I said on this very same spot one year ago—"Let my people go" now!

Charles A. Collins, AFL Hotel and Club Employes Union, Local 6:

We are proud that our fighters and the fighters of Britain have joined hands with the heroic Red Army to forge a ring of steel around the enemy. This unity must grow stronger and continue after the war and must be extended to the ranks of labor. We salute all the leaders of the United Nations, and our own Commander-in-Chief, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The Supreme Court decision in the Texas white primaries case, which was so brilliantly prepared and presented by the NAACP, was a mortal blow to the white supremacy advocates of the South, a blow from which they will not soon recover. The skillful marshalling of a bill to appropriate $500,000 to preserve the FEPC by our Congressman Vito Marcantonio, with the support of progressive people, kept alive an agency which makes it possible for 1,500,000 Negro men and women, like the Misses Negro Victory Worker here tonight, to be employed today.

In New York City, we were wise to elect to the City Council to succeed Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., for it is to Ben Davis that the honor goes for the passage of legislation in the City Council barring Jim Crow in government subsidized houses like the Stuyvesant Town project.

DEWEY'S RECORD 6-28-44

Unfortunately, thanks to Governor Dewey, we can record no such progress in the State. A whole series of bills, aimed against discrimination in New York State, some introduced by Assemblyman Hulan Jack, others by the Governor's own Committee, failed to become law, lacking the Governor's backing. The Governor cunningly outmaneuvered us and appointed another committee to investigate the first one. Now we in this meeting will appoint still a third, a committee to investigate the Governor to find out what makes him think that, in this year 1944, when the army of liberation is on the march, and the whole world is clamoring for freedom, he can pacify our demands to end Jim Crow in New York State by forming commissions and by giving a few Negroes high paying jobs, and by even naming a Negro woman for Congress.

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.:

When our country affixed its signature, through President Roosevelt, to the Teheran charter, it decided for the first time since Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, that fascism must be destroyed, that tyranny and oppression must be banished from the earth, that a new and better world must be built.

To the Republican defeatist generals who rule the roost in Chicago—who regard Teheran as a scrap of paper — we say that the Second Front in France, is a direct result of this historic accord. The peoples representative governments in Italy, France, Yugoslavia and Greece—with all anti-fascists participating, including the Communists—show that democracy is coming into its own on a world scale. 6-28-44

In America, too, we can see the democratic forces gaining in unity, strength and achievement. The white primary has been outlawed, the poiltax Democrats and the Northern Republicans weakened. They could not kill the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

The New York City Council and the Board of Estimate, responding to the will of the people against jim-crow in Stuyvesant Town, passed a measure barring racial discrimination in all tax exempt private housing projects.

The Teheran agreement has opened up the possibility of ending jim-crow, anti-Semitism and all other forms of racial discrimination. Our great city—the most liberal in America—should set an example for the nation in cleaning house, and having all races, creeds and colors, and nationality—Americans live together in peace, harmony and good neighborliness.

The eyes of Negro, as all other Americans, are turned to the postwar world, whose problems are already affecting the struggle for victory. Teheran means security.

6-28-44

NORFOLK SCHOOL SINGERS

A group of 100 Norfolk, Va., high school singers, beautifully trained, gave a radio program last week. From their performance, no one could tell whether they were kids from Detroit, New York, or Los Angeles; whether they were colored or white. Afro American — Baltimore Md.

The History Week speaker, who followed the chorus, used the word "Negro" in every other sentence. He seemed to suffer from the kind of inferiority complex that makes it necessary for some people to carry a sign saying, "I am colored."

The purpose of History Week isn't to have the exploits of Frederick Douglass, Salem Poore, Benjamin Banneker, the 369th Infantry and the 99th Pursuit Squadron included in school books as colored people.

We want them in as Americans, and nobody is more willing than we to forget the tags of race. Radio speakers who can't ought to be dropped quietly into a lake.

High Point School Negro History Week

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

By MRS. MARY G. WILLIAMS

HIGH POINT, N. C. — Negro History Week was observed at Fairview Elementary School with all classes participating. Monday Prof. Charles G. Green of A. and T. College gave several readings; on Wednesday the J. C. Price Elementary School of Greensboro gave a musical program here, and Friday morning a play entitled: "Nat Turner," was given by the seventh grade under the direction of Mrs. M. H. Blacbur.

The program was brought to the school through Mrs. L. E. Flowe, chairman of the committee; Mrs. J. K. Williams and Miss R. V. Garden. 3-4-44

Miss M. C. Robinson, school librarian, attended the librarians' conference in Raleigh, N. C., the first of this month. As a result she had many helpful suggestions on the observance of "Negro History Week."

BUY BONDS

Fairview school has gone 100 per cent in the purchasing of war stamps. A citation has been received from the U. S. Treasury Department with permission to fly the "Minute Man Flag." The flag has been purchased and a brief ceremony was held around the flag pole with pupils who have purchased bonds taking an active part.

The following participants have all purchased bonds, the first person listed has purchased two bonds; Leroy Jones Jr., Shelton Williams, Grover Harris, Shirley Rogers, Jacqueline Haizlip, Lillian Martin, Thomas Saunders, James Dubard, Robbie Dubard, Dorothy Mack, Barbara Ford, Edna Rogers, Ruby Lawhorn, Geraldine Clinton, William Love.

Miss Mytrolene L. Graye, who holds the M.A. degree from Columbia University, is principal of the school.

58c-1944

Negro History Week

With A Grain of Salt

Journal + Guide - Norfolk, Va.

2-19-44

By ARTHUR P. DAVIS

AS THIS IS Negro History Week, I wish for a change, to become a school teacher and talk about three Negro writers who need to be read more often than they are.

The first of them, William Wells Brown, is practically unknown to most Negroes; and yet he was the first American Negro to write a novel, the first to write a play, and among the first to attempt a history. Born in Lexington, Kentucky, and reared in several places under varied masters, William escaped from slavery via the Underground in Cincinnati. Helped by a Quaker named Wells Brown, out of appreciation, William took the latter's name.

DR. DAVIS

For several years after gaining freedom, Brown worked at menial jobs, studying all the while. By 1847 he was able to succeed Douglass as lecturer for the famous Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. In 1849 he went to England and during his five-year stay there published two books and delivered over one thousand anti-slavery lectures.

Brown's novel, Clotel; or, the President's Daughter, came out in 1853. It deals in part with the well known scandal concerning Thomas Jefferson and his Negro daughter. Though poorly constructed, the book is highly fascinating. His play, The Escape, was published in 1858. It, too, deals with sensational material; its eternal triangle consisted of a white master and a black slave both in love with a mulatto girl. In the end virtue, of course, triumphs.

Brown is not a great writer, but since he is a pioneer in so many fields, he deserves to be better known at least among his own people. And bear this in mind—Brown is always interesting.

On the other hand, Frederick Douglass' autobiography, **The Life and Times**, measured by any standard is a great American work of its type and deserves a place in the textbooks along with Franklin's **Autobiography**. For twenty-four years a slave, Douglass graduated from that institution, as he phrased it, with his diploma written on his back. For three more years he was a day-laborer in New Bedford. But when he made his first anti-slavery speech in 1841, the audience knew that a great national orator and leader was present. From that day until his death in 1895, he was America's outstanding Negro—the greatest we have yet produced. We realize all this, and we name high schools for Frederick Douglass, **but we don't read him in those schools.** 2-19-44

The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass is not only an important work; today it is a very timely book, because it vividly depicts those stirring years from 1840-65 when the Negro faced his first crisis in America. We are now up against a second crisis, and the similarity between the two is startling. As strange as it may sound, one could learn much concerning Roosevelt's Negro dilemma from Douglass' account of Lincoln's Negro problems.

Charles W. Chesnutt is another excellent Negro writer whose name we know but whose works we neglect. The first Negro to use the short story as a serious medium of literary expression, our first **important** novelist and still one of our best, Chesnutt is not merely a good Negro writer; he is also a representative American author. Although critics have tended to overlook the fact, Chesnutt's **Conjure Woman** should at least be considered along with the deservedly more famous Uncle Remus stories. It is good American folk stuff and well written.

As a fiction writer, Chesnutt "anticipated" the themes of most present-day Negro writers. And unlike his contemporary Dunbar, he was no appeaser. When Thomas Dixon and other Southern apologists vilified the Negro, Chesnutt ever more skillfully than they anathematized the evils of the white South, and he pulled no punches. As an antidote against interracial over-optimism, every Negro should read **The Colonel's Dream**. It will be a salutary experience. I am happy that I had the honor of meeting Charles W. Chesnutt before his death in 1932. He was a fine person as well as a fine writer. 2-19-44

The American literature textbooks are finally admitting that Negroes too are Americans, and are letting down their barriers. Most of the new texts now include Phyllis Wheatley. Sterling Brown, Langston Hughes, and James Weldon Johnson have also been placed in a few advanced books. I sincerely feel that Chesnutt and Douglass also deserve inclusion in the textbook family of representative American writers.

SPARKS

By MABEL BARKER MURPHY

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK JUSTIFICATION

Weekly Review

Birmingham, Ala.

It is good that we have Negro History week. We have achieved and we are achieving and somebody needs to know.

From the arrival of the first slave ship in 1619 to the appointment of an Alabama Negro to an important Judgeship in New York City is a far cry. From the beginnings of Germany and the superlative in the preservation of the human body after death — commonly called the lost art of embalming — both of which began with the black men of Egypt thousands of years ago, to the admission of practice before the U. S. Supreme Court of our own erudite barrister Shores, is a long, long story and needs a lot of telling. 2-19-44

And so, I say Negro History Week is good. It is a good medicine — a tonic and stimulant for us and an eye-wash and a purifier for our paler brothers in whose midst we live but in whose minds we are classified according to a knowledge which is altogether too meager, thanks to omissions from American Histories which have persisted through the years.

That the Negro is suceptble to seasons of discouragement, lapses of racial self-respect, and periods of doubt as to the past and fear as to the future are all reasons good enough for the necessity of periodic doses of: "I am the Negro Race — I am Somebody! Look at my bronze Joe Louis; my world's greatest contralto — Marian Anderson; the life of George Washington Carver, scientist extraordinary (and artist as well). Take a glance at all of my artists, musicians, inventors; — did not Banneker invent the clock? — my warriors, educators, farmers, journalists, lawyers, doctors, preachers and countless thousands of my people who have surmounted tremendous obstacles to achieve undreamed of success in every one of life's endeavors! Is this now indicative of my having earned a place not only in American History but in the annals of the History of the world? Does not this entitle me to be proud rather than apologetic of the fact that I am a Negro?" Do not these reflections stimulate us when we would be discouraged? We think so. 2-19-44

Because there has been no attempt by Historians — early or late — to correlate truthfully the record of the conributions of Negroes with that of other racial groups and whereas: "All that I know is what I read in the newspapers" was not only the favorite aphorism of Will Rogers, but is the rule of a "well informed" majority, it is both fitting and proper and a service to a benighted populace for the whole of America to have its attention centered (if only for a week annually) upon the good points concerning Negro America. Not only does it open the eyes but it purifies the thought stream and enhances the value of the "boy" who is really an asset to America — and a mature one, at that.

Yes, Negro History Week is a medicine. It is a good medicine. It tones the nerves and stimulates the efforts of Negroes. It also opens the eyes, clears the viewpoint and purifies the thoughts of the majority race concerning us. But for us, Negro History Week should also be a laxative — to purge us of our faults.

This is the other side of Negro History Week. Beyond the glorification — as good as it is — there lies an opportunity for us to appraise ourselves to take stock, if you please, with the idea of holding fast to the good but of weeding out the bad. Stimulation, or in other words, a toning up is good for the system, we admit, but so also is a regulator. Thus having reflected upon the assets that inspire us, let us enumerate a few liabilities that make difficult our progress as a race.

ENUMERATION OF LIABILITIES

Consider these:

There is on the part of most Negroes (of the South, especially) a General Lack of Interest in Government — local, state, and federal. There is shown by many symptoms, the most obvious being the very large number of leaders (?) of our group who do not vote — many of whom are registered but have never paid the poll tax, others of whom are lacking in that "bull dog tenacity" that must possess a Southern Negro if he would be a voter.

Another liability is our Littleness in Giving. We give pennies to missions, nickles to education (ask our struggling Denominational and Liberal Arts College); dimes to Community Chest Funds (for there is slight pressure from employers or perhaps embarrassment if we don't make a fair showing here); and dollars to church rallies (where the reading of names if the order of the day). "We don't have it to give," "I'm just not able," are two expressions that the Negro has voiced for so long until even now when his pockets are bulging with cash the habit is so strong — the thought pattern of tight-fistedness so predominant that great opportunity of carefully planned and sysematic giving is knocking unheard at his door.

A third of our shortcomings is Dishonesty. (Are we justified in discussing dishonesty as a fault so generally possessed as to be considered a liability of the Negro race? Let us see. Are not all men more or less equally dishonest? Perhaps so. But this happens to be our "housecleaning." It is we who take inventory and together face some of our liabilities — even though they may be liabilities of other racial groups as well).

Answering the first parenthetical question, let me review for you a statement from a report that was made recently on Juvenile Delinquency in one of America's large cities in which the population of Negroes is greater than one third of the total (a comparatively percentage we must admit). In this report it was stated that petty larceny ranks first of all of the crimes for which Negro boys and girls are arrested and sent to juvenile court. 2-19-44

Now there are, of course, many reasons for this condition, a major one being economic. As was pointed out in this report, the most frequent offenders come from blighted areas and neglected homes where hunger, crowded conditions, vice and the struggle for existence are all keenly felt. But in spite of these extenuating circumstances, herein lies an indictment against our group which should give us a disturbed conscience until it has been eradicated.

What of dishonesty among adult Negroes? Is there any cause for undue concern here? Having received no statistical data on the comparison of larceny with other offenses of Negro criminals I cannot say that the habit of stealing which seems so pronounced among our youth is carried over into adult life! Perhaps we learn better with maturity but in at least two related traits, we are strictly fair. As adults, we are woefully lacking in thoroughness and in dependability.

The almost general attitude of doing enough to merely get by— the "Dat'll do" slogan as Mr. Hayes calls it—has made great inroads on a group that can ill afford to lose the ground so dearly gained in industry. If we, as Negroes will do whatever job we have, so well, as to make ourselves indispensable; we will then be making great strides toward the goal we now seek.

What is the impediment preventing more of us from keeping our word? To be found on the

spot where we have promised to be or to have sent in advance an explanation of our failure so to do is to build an enviable reputation of dependability and honesty that will set us far ahead in eliminating the liability dishonesty.

RECAPITULATION

These are a few of our liabilities. Doubtless you will think of others. *2-19-44*

Yes, Negro History Week is good. It s good medicine. To date it has proved to be a tonic and a stimulant for Negroes and an eye wash and a thought purifier for whites.

But to be most beneficial Negro History Week must likewise be a laxative. It must purge us of our faults.

To Celebrate History Week At Sumner

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kansas
2-18-44

Celebration of Negro History Week opened at Sumner High School Monday morning with an address given in a special assembly by Dr. Lorenzo Greene, Negro history authority, of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dr. Greene began by deploring the designation of the event as "Negro History Week" pointing out that racial contributions should not be isolated, but regarded as world contribution.

Beginning with Hannibal, the greatest military genius the world has ever known, the speaker reviewed chronicles of African empires, chronicles seldom mentioned in history text books—explaining how with such a heritage Negroes have been qualified to contribute greatly to the military development of America.

Dr. Greene gave high tribute to Haitiians who not only threw off their shackles, but overcame their oppressors and set up their own republic, finally.

"Every day ought to be Negro History day—not only for Negroes, but for the whites as well," he declared, explaining that racial contribution should become better known. *2-18-44*

"So long as the white group chooses to say we're inferior, and so long as we accept the monstrous lie, so long shall we remain inferior," Dr. Greene declared.

Conversely, so soon as the race disproves the lie, so soon shall the group rise above the accusation, he said in conclusion.

Interesting Display Will Open Feb. 14

Argus
St. Louis, MO
2-11-44

The Parents and Teachers Room and the Children's Room of the St. Louis Public Library, 14th and Olive Streets, have an exhibit in celebration of Negro History Week beginning February 14th and continuing through the month, prepared under the direction of Miss Julia Davis of Simmons School. The exhibit includes posters, murals and other materials illustrating the history of colored schools in St. Louis, with emphasis on "The Negro Soldier in the Wars of America" which is the special subject for this year. In addition to materials prepared by the colored elementary and high schools there is also a model school library and scrap books from the 1943 summer workshop of Stowe Teacher's College. *2-11-44*

The library has prepared for distribution a selected bibliography of adult books in the library on the America Negro. A number of these books are on exhibit in the Parents and Teachers Room. A collection of books by and about Negroes for boys and girls is in the Children's Room with accompanying lists.

Lloyd Hall, Noted Chemist, Speaks At Kentucky State

Defender
Chicago, Ill
2-19-44

FRANKFORT, Ky.—"There will be a technological boom at the end of the present war which will require the services of men and women regardless of race who have prepared themselves in science" was the prediction of Lloyd A. Hall, outstanding Negro chemist of Chicago, in his address Tuesday on "Opportunities for Negroes in Scientific Industry" at Kentucky State college.

The occasion was the college observance of Negro History Week in conjunction with the departments of science and physical and health education. *2-19-44*

Tracing the development of the chemical industry in this country since 1912 Hall said that "those Negroes who were adequately prepared in technical chemistry and who entered this field during the first World War, as I did, got in on the ground floor in an expanding industry." For the most part they are still holding excellent positions paying lucrative salaries.

At present chief chemist at the Griffith Laboratories, Chicago, Hall is a native of Illinois, received his specialized training in chemistry at Northwestern and other universities, and is a member of a long list of scientific societies.

In introducing him as the speaker for Negro History Week, President R. B. Atwood said that the speaker was "not a man to recount past events or accomplishments, but a man who himself is making great achievements, but a man who himself is making great achievements now." Hall holds patents for several chemical processes, one of the most important being for the quick curing of meat, in this country, Canada and Great Britain.

WE REDEDICATE OURSELVES

Informer-Houston, Texas

February 27 marks the beginning of the observance of National Negro History Week. The Informer's J. Don Davis aptly wrote: "It has not been an easy road from Russworm's journal up to now. The path of unparallel journalistic progress that typifies the growth of the colored press is stained with the blood and sweat of many who are no longer here to share in the fruits from their pioneering toil. But their noble work, so unselfishly launched, is still being carried on." (The Informer Aug. 15, 1943)

During 1943 the Informer papers kept a plea before workers to stay on jobs, sponsored a scrap bin near the home office, furnished a truck for the collection of scrap, devoted many columns to aid the WAC drive campaigns, maintained model victory garden, sponsored a victory garden contest, kept vigil against wild rumors, collected cigarettes for service men and aired the excessive taxi rates that were being charged by Negro taxi companies in Houston. The company's secretary led Negro women in the Third War Loan Drive in Houston. The managing editor handled all of the publicity for the same drive. *2-26-44*

Our papers again rededicate themselves to the task of carrying on the work which pioneer Negro newspapermen began by serving as a medium through which a record and analysis of the problems and progress of the Negro can be made, by speaking out against injustices to and the discrimination and exploitation of Negroes, by helping to secure the ballot for Negroes in the South, by providing information on health, labor and other topics of value in raising the socio-economic status of the Negro, and by urging Negroes to true Americanism and to help secure for them the rights and privileges which every citizen has a right to expect.

HISTORY WEEK

The Guardian- Boston, Mass

It is foolish to adhere to the ignorant belief that any one race, creed, or color is superior whether such is preached by Hitler, Tojo or Rankin. Colored races have contributed much upon which other peoples have merely built, and we may reasonably expect colored races to contribute more today and in the future. Until the day comes when our schools, colleges and universities — also our Congress — become fair enough to give due credit regardless of skin color, there will be need for a History Week to stimulate outside research and revelations pertaining to subjects so vital to hard-pressed race morale. It is indeed fitting that History Week includes the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. *2-12-44*

ROGERS SAYS:

Negro History Will Continue Until It Changes U. S. Concepts

Courier- Pittsburgh, Pa.

By J. A. ROGERS *2-19-44*

THIS is Negro History Week and many, especially on the white side, might ask: Why Negro history? Why not the American and the world history of the other groups of which this nation is composed? The answer is that all these other groups, thanks to color of skin, are integrated into the American family while the Negro, because of the color of his, is still largely an alien, or worse. He is in a way a prisoner at the bar who is trying to prove to the court that the bad things said about him are not true. Or like one who finds it necessary to trot out all his good points in order to convince his employer that his record entitles him to a raise. Negro history is, in short counter-propaganda.

Mr. Rogers

Briefly Negro history arose in this way: In the days of slavery every effort was made to keep the Negro in a condition that his labor could be had as cheaply as possible and permanently so. The religion and the science of the times were pressed into service to prove that he was hopelessly a savage, born to serve white people; that he was the son of Ham, cursed by the Bible into eternal servitude. However, as time went on certain anti-slavery whites began to show that what was said about the Negro had also been true of the whites at stages of their history. Then, as certain of the Negroes became more educated, they, too, joined in and the fight against villifying of their people was on. Had the blacks been permitted finally to enter the American fold as say the Irish, who were once a very degraded and persecuted lot, Negro history would not have arisen. If it had, it would be as Nazi history is now—a sign of arrogance and inferiority of soul.

PROVES ONENESS OF HUMAN RACE

Negro history will continue until it wears down the present American belief—a belief supported even by the federal government—that if you have one ancestor with a known Negro strain you are a Negro and are thereby a second class citizen. In several states it is still a libel to call one presumably white, a Negro. *2-19-44*

SO MUCH for the propaganda side. Now for its spiritual aspect. Negro history makes for the genuine culture of both blacks and whites by showing that all peoples, no matter how far down at any time, have inherent possibilities for advancement. Really civilized white people—and this writer has the good fortune to know many—are delighted at Negro history because it proves to them the oneness of mankind; that when all is said and done there is only one race—the human race.

Of course there were Negro scholars in the earlier days who made assertions that could not be proved. But these, at their worst, were mild in comparison with certain white scholars who have claimed, and still continue to claim, even the Ethiopians, a people, black and wooly-haired from the dawn of history, as white. The "master" race from the time of colonial Virginia to Hitler has done a terrific job of whitewashing colored peoples and individuals. Today, the process continues in America. Very Negroid Latin-Americans are inducted as white in the army and navy, while citizens whiter than Bilbo or Eastland are put in the Negro corps, the object still being to isolate the Aframerican so that the billions of dollars invested in his exploitation, and through him the poorer whites, can continue to bring in dividends.

NEGRO history has a brilliant future. It is bound to win. Even when the Negro was a slave, bound hand and foot, the so-called master race could not prove him inferior. As time goes on it will become more and more impossible to do this.

HISTORY REPEATS

Thomas Jefferson wrote very pessimistically about Negro mentality. How amazed he would be could he see the number of Negro college graduates today; Negro instructors in white colleges; Negro scientists and literary men. Yes, he would be as amazed as Julius Caesar would be could he see again the savage Britain he conquered.

HISTORY teaches this one important truth: Peoples who are down may rise and peoples who are up will inevitably fall. Aristotle, who for 2,000 years was regarded as the world's greatest scientist, said that the whites of northern Europe were lacking "in intelligence and skill." Cicero bemoaned the fact that all Rome could expect from Britain were slaves of the poorest quality. In fact, as late as 300 A.D., Emperor Constantine of the Eastern Roman empire absolutely forbade any of his nobles to marry Russian, German or British princes since they were "barbarians." In 1934, however, we find the Nazis calling the Italians "half-apes."

SEES DAY AHEAD FOR HUMAN HISTORY *2-19-44*

On the other hand, Negroes of Aristotle's time were civilized and ruled in both Egypt and Ethiopia. He says very plainly at least twice that the Egyptians and Ethiopians were "black" and "wooly-haired." Herodotus, who lived earlier, is equally precise. Others as Aeschylus (525-456 B. C.) could be cited, too. These facts, together with the faces of Negro rulers on the monuments, convince me, far beyond anything modern Egyptologists could say, that Negroes were the originators of our present civilization. Of course, there was a later white element in the Egyptian population, too, from which came rulers from time to time. "And since blacks and whites mixed freely there were mulatto Pharaohs, also.

THE field of Negro history is vast. From my researches—and I am finding more every day—I am convinced that an encyclopedia as large as the Britannica could be prepared on it. Some day this will be done: the information will be taken up by the white historian; then white and Negro historians will get together and write not "Negro" history or "Caucasian" history, but human history.

Davis Resolution on Negro History Week

Daily Worker- New York, N.Y.

1-26-44

Following is the text of a resolution by Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Manhattan Communist, adopted unanimously by the City Council yesterday:

Whereas, the outstanding contribution being made by the Negro people in the nation's war effort, both in the armed forces and on the home front, has helped to create a better understanding of the Negro people among other sections of the population and

Whereas, the development of such understanding is of great value toward minimizing the tensions and antagonisms which are stirred into racial conflict by the spreaders of race hatred, and

Whereas, the week of Feb. 13-19 has been designated as Negro History Week by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in order to celebrate the achievements of the Negro people and engender a better understanding genrally threof, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Council of the City of New York request the Mayor to officially proclaim the week of Feb. 13-19 as Negro History Week, and be it further 1-26-44

Resolved that the Council of the City of New York request the Mayor to call upon schools, libraries and other public institutions to conduct the proper observances of Negro History Week through such means as displays and celebrations, and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor.

1,200 Hear Davis at Chicago Negro Rally

Daily Worker- New York, N.Y.

2-29-44

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—National unity as a means of enforcing the terms of the Tehran conference agreements, dedicated by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Joseph Stalin "to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance," was stressed by Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., New York's first Negro Communist Councilman. The meeting was part of Negro history week celebration sponsored by the Citizens Victory Committee in Wendell Phillips high school auditorium.

The meeting of 1,200 marked a new local triumph in unity by bringing together people in all walks of life.

"I am a political product between Negroes and labor, Jews and anti-fascist white Americans," Davis declared, pointing out that of the 44,000 votes he received, 24,000 came from an all-white neighborhood outside of Harlem. "In Harlem, the Negroes proved themselves to be the most progressive minority group in America."

As he revealed pre-election predictions that he was considered the darkest of the "dark horses," Davis remarked that the trend of world events, plus the successes of the Red Army were favorable factors that brought about his election. "We cannot accept a party vote any longer," he said. "We have to vote for men and issues."

AMERICAN HISTORY WEEK

The councilman deplored the necessity of celebrating Negro history week. He said Americans should be celebrating American history week. He revealed he had introduced a bill in the council against use of textbooks that slander Negroes, Jews or any minority group. Davis stressed his intention of representing all people, white as well as Negro. 2-29-44

Arthur Huff Fauset, a Philadelphia high school principal and journalist, hit the "high hat" attitude of world leaders. "The Tehran Conference agreement is writen in simple language, not in 'high hat' terms," he said.

Fauset urged Negro citizens to collaborate with labor in eradicting racial prejudice, while demanding that men of Col. Robert R. McCormick's ilk be cleaned out. Tracing the background of the present world conflict, Fauset told how the Allies in 1918 sent an army into Russia to crush the hated Bolsheviks; how Prime Minister Chamberlain was a party to the oppression of nations and races, how Russia had championed the cause of Ethiopia in the League of Nations.

"The 'high hat' attitude of world leaders have resulted in international catastrophe," he charged.

LAUDS DAVIS' DEEDS

Robert C. Travis, vice president of the Illinois State Industrial Union Council, CIO, agreed that unity among the people is the key to the solution of discrimination against Negroes and Jews. "We must understand the settlement of questions by unity, that will mean equality and justice for all," Travis said.

"As long as a single Negro's life is in danger, no man's life is safe," declared Bishop J. A. Bray of the CM Church. "As long as the Negro is deprived of his suffrage rights, the suffrage rights of other Americans are endangered." 2-29-44

Oscar Bron, president of the NACP local branch, denounced the spirit of colored residents of West Chesterfield who have lodged a protest with the mayor against the building of a housing project for Negroes in their community.

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., was introduced by State Senator C. C. Wimbish, Illinois legislature, who lauded Davis' achievements, and urged removal from public life of "handerchief-headed leaders."

Ishmael P. Flory, international representative of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, CIO, and executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, was master of ceremonies.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

World-Telegram- New York, N.Y.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 14.—To my readers who live in New York City and, incidentally, to those who live in other cities where a like situation may exist I should like to suggest that anyone who has a spare room in his house keep in touch with the Officers' Service Committee. In New York City the office is in the Hotel Commodore and there is a housing desk run by the committee where rooms and apartments are procured for officers and their families. It is difficult for a woman to arrive in a big city, expecting to meet her husband, sometimes with a child or two, only to find that he has not yet arrived or that he has already sailed away. 2-15-44

* * *

Of course, there are many other things that are done for the officers. They can procure lists of places of entertainment and theater tickets at half price. They can get information on many subjects and I am sure arrangements can be made for any particular thing they wish to do.

This housing service, however, has especially appealed to me. In New York City it is headed by Mrs. Herbert Carlebach, and I hear that her difficulties are very great at the present time. So if you have a spare room at any time, let her know.

This is Negro History Week, from Feb. 13 to Feb. 20 inclusive. In Chicago Negro history is being taught in the schools. It seems to me that this might well be done in some of our other big cities to give some background of knowledge about our largest minority group in this country.

* * *

On Saturday I went with the President to pay homage at the Lincoln Memorial and we were reminded that this is the 11th year that the President has attended the ceremonies. 2-15-44

In the afternoon I went to the Navy Yard with my husband. He spoke over the radio at the ceremonies attending the turning over of an American destroyer escort to the French.

Negro, or American History?

The Worker- New York, N.Y.

2-20-44

WE ARE now coming to the end of one more Negro History Week. Let us all resolve to do our utmost to make sure that the teaching of our country's history shall be in accordance with all the facts in relation to the United States' founding, settlement and development—which must include the great role of the Negro people.

"Negro history" is nothing more or less than discarded pages from the United States history. It is time these missing pages were returned, so that the development of Americans and their institutions might, at last, be viewed in their full-bodied and rounded proportions. Leaving out pages concerning the Negro's part in founding, settling and developing the United States may not diminish Uncle Sam's actual stature; it does, however, distort our vision when we look at him. 2-20-44

Negro organizations and their progressive friends—particularly trade unions—have raised the general level of our education through observance of Negro History Week. Let them go further, not stopping until the pages known as "Negro history" are where they belong. They belong in our general books of history. Those books belong in our schools, colleges, libraries and homes.

Seek Full Manhood Rights, Gilbert Tells Atlantans

Lincoln-Douglass Day Speaker Heard At Bethel Church Sunday

Daily World- New York, N.Y.

2-15-44

In his address Sunday afternoon to Atlantans gathered at a mammoth Lincoln-Douglass Day observance in Big Bethel AME Church on Auburn and Butler, Rev. Ralph Mark Gilbert, pastor of the First African Baptist Church at Savannah, and State President of NAACP Chapters of Georgia, paid glowing tribute to Lincoln, the Man, and had high praise for Negro leaders who blazed the trail in years past. He spoke under the sponsorship of the Atlanta Political and Civic League.

Rev. Gilbert used for a subject, "The Unfinished Work of Abraham Lincoln." In the interesting message the speaker particularly pointed to the advancement made by the race in Atlanta, and stated that the present generation was

not keeping abreast with the showing made by their forefathers.

SEEK FULL RIGHTS

The speaker made mention of the practical things which face the world today and predicted that the end of the war is not in sight as yet. "This is a total war," Rev. Mr. Gilbert said, "and all of us must share in it and its culmination." He deplored the attitude of narrowness on the part of certain white leaders in not more fully utilizing the Negro manpower at their command, and scoffed at those who advise that now is not the time for Negroes to seek out full citizenship rights.

"Now is the time for us to make progress," the minister said as he vigorously condemned discrimination, based solely on race and color. "We must seek full manhood rights and accept nothing less," he averred. Rev. Mr. Gilbert urged that Negroes be given the right to vote, secondly the right to hold public office: third—the elimination of white Democratic parties, specifying this practice as being in congruous; fourth, the removal of subterfuges; fifth, abolition of poll tax requirements, which is showing progress daily; sixth, the right of all persons in the armed services to vote, regardless of race or color; seventh, attainment of the ballot must be first objective, and then other barriers will dwindle as the snow does under the sunshine, and eighth, protests are meaningless without the franchise, and we must show intelligent and mass use of the ballot.

PRAISES NAACP

In concluding the brilliant address Rev. Gilbert who has done an effective work in his city and state, touched upon the matter of using every opportunity available for voting rights and privileges, upon the economic plight of the race, appealing to the audience that more avenues be sought in the effort to make themselves more secure economically.

Leaders in the program to have teachers-pay equalized were lauded for the part they have played by the speaker, mainly the NAACP. He also spoke at length on seeking more equity in courts and suggested a defense fund for every community. Slum-clearance was mentioned for a growing race, and other projects which will reduce juvenile delinquency.

Master of Ceremonies was John Wesley Dobbs, president of the sponsoring League, who also presented the speaker of the day. Music was given by choirs of Wheat Street Baptist Church, and Big Bethel Church, combined with patriotic singing by the congregation. Reading on the lives and works of Lincoln and Douglas were given by Miss Amanda Keith, of Spelman College, and Walter Stublefield, student at Booker T. Washington High school. The former delivered Lincoln's Gettysburg address, and the latter read, Frederick Douglass, "Men to Color, To Arms."

The invocation was offered by Rev. L. M. Terrill, pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. D. T. Babcock, Big Bethel pastor.

2-15-44

A total sum of $245.79 was raised in the offering in this eighty-first annual observance.

Laguardia Hails History Week

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Resolution By Ben Davis, Jr.

2-15-44

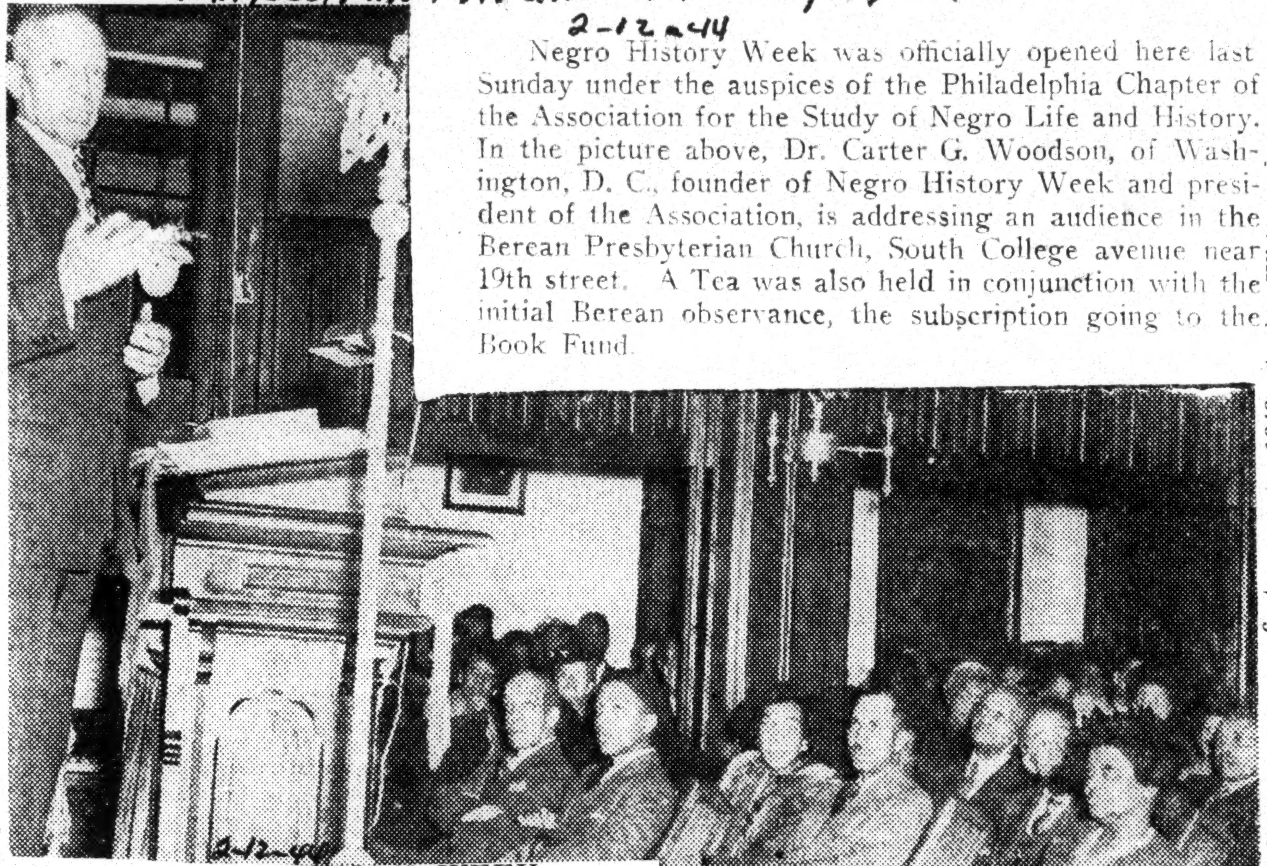
NEW YORK—(A N P)—Mayor LaGuardia praises the contributions of the Negro people to the war effort in a special statement of greeting released here Saturday in connection with Negro History week from Feb. 13-19.

The statement was released from the office of Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, 200 W. 135th Street, a few days after the city council had unanimously passed a resolution introduced by him. The resolution called attention to the significance of Negro History week and asked the mayor to issue an official proclamation in its observance. 2-15-44

It was the first time in the history of the New York City council that official action was taken by that body in commemoration of Negro History week.

Tea Opens Negro History Week

Philadelphia Tribune – Philadelphia, Pa.
2-12-44



Negro History Week was officially opened here last Sunday under the auspices of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In the picture above, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, of Washington, D. C., founder of Negro History Week and president of the Association, is addressing an audience in the Berean Presbyterian Church, South College avenue near 19th street. A Tea was also held in conjunction with the initial Berean observance, the subscription going to the Book Fund.

2-12-44

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

Tribune - Savannah, Ga.

Negro History Week terminates next Sunday. Every organization every school should observe it with special reference to affairs of the race. In most of the cities, some organization plans each year to signally observe the week. Unfortunately for Savannah we are amiss in this respect. It should not be so. Some interested ones should begin now to prepare for a proper observance next year. Whoever begins the movement should be wholeheartedly supported. Last Sunday the citizens of Atlanta sent to Savannah to get one of our best known speakers to address them. We are proud that we have such a talent in our midst, and should see that it is utilized. All honor to Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert who made the welkin ring in Atlanta last Sunday. This Atlanta organization is planning a year in advance, and has already engaged a historian of note to deliver the address in nineteen forty-five. They will secure Dr. Patterson, the well-known radio speaker. He has a superb radio voice and can be heard every night over the station at Hot Springs when he speaks on the "Negro Marches On." Let the Negro in Savannah "March On," by planning to have an outstanding Negro History Week next year.

2-17-44

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

Iowa Bystander - Des Moines, Iowa

Since Sunday, February 13, we have been observing Negro history week. Its object is to acquaint the people with things Negroes have done which serve as examples for youngsters as they frow up and to the public generally that it might more fully appreciate the worth of the Negro race. 2-17-44

The originators of the ideal realized that the public knew little about the Negro, because our histories have very studiously omitted his accomplishments and few schools in the north have seen fit to no anything to fill the gap.

On another page of this issue will be found a full page of pictures of many high ranking Negro officers in our armed services. As is the case with Negro history generally, the small amount of publicity given Negroes through the daily press in the war would lead us to believe that they are not taking any real part. But they are.

The military history of the Negro in this country is glorious. From Boston Commons where the first man, Chrispus Attacks, a Negro, died for American independence, down through all the wars in which the country has engaged, he has accredited himself nobly and it must be with pride that the whole nation may well recognize that he has justified his citizenship. 2-17-44

The Bystander suggest that this page be preserved as an incentive to the youngsters. It would be well to take it to the public schools that teachers and white schoolmates may know that after all we are in this struggle in a big way.

Women Depicted on History Week

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.
2-26-44

The Howard University Library will sponsor its annual observance of Negro History Week in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Wednesday, at 8:30 p.m.

There will be a symposium on "Colored Women in the War" with the following speakers participating:

Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, director of the Emergency Food and Housing Corps, Metropolitan Area; Jesse O. Thomas, special assistant to the director of domestic relations; Maj. Harriet M. West, Women's Army Corps; Mrs. Theresa Robinson, head, Cosmos Unit, American Women's Voluntary Services; Mrs. Marion B. Seymour, assistant to the director of nurses, Freedmen's Hospital; and Mrs. Jeannetta Brown, executive secretary, National Council of Negro Women.

"Women of the U.S.A.," a song composed by Miss Camille Nickerson of the school of music, and first sung in 1943 at the White House for Mrs. Roosevelt, will be presented.

Throughout the month of February a pictorial exhibit on "Colored Women in the War" will be on display in the Founder's Library, which is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except Sunday.

58c-1944

Negro History Week Starts At State Teachers College

Advertiser- Montgomery, Ala.

2-14-44

The celebration of Negro History Week at State Teachers' College started Sunday evening with a program in the reception room of Bibb Graves Hall and will continue all week with daily programs. Mrs. Emma Howard was chairman of the program last night.

Mr. James A. Porter, chairman of the department of art at Howard University will be guest contributor to the Monday evening program, local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities appear Tuesday evening, chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi fraternities Wednesday evening, and a faculty committee on Friday morning. All evening programs start at 7:30 and with the exception of the Sunday program will be held in Paterson Assembly.

Mr. Porter will also speak to a public mass meeting at Mobile in the celebration of the branch school there Sunday afternoon. Through his aid a loan exhibit of art work of the students of Howard University will be included in the exhibit arranged by Dr. A. K. Nyabonge will be opened to the public Tuesday afternoon in Room 33 Paterson Hall and will be open thereafter daily between the hours of 10 and 5 p.m. 2-14-44

Mr. James E. Pierce, of the faculty, is very active in the War Bond Drive among the Negroes of Montgomery as vice-chairman of the committee. He personally solicited the ads for the full page appearing in The Advertiser and Journal recently in the interest of the drive. Mr. Hall, of the music faculty, was chairman of the program committee for the mass meeting in interest of the drive which was held at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church Saturday. President H. Councill Trenholm who is executive secretary of the American Teachers Association purchased $1,300 worth of series F bonds for that organization.

Mrs. Audrey Neal, social service supervisor for USO Travelers Aid, was guest contributor to the AKA Founders Day program celebration by Beta Pi Chapter at the college Tuesday. Rev. D. C. Whitsett, pastor of St. Marks M. E. Church, addressed the morning assembly Friday.

Another recent visitor to the college was Rev. W. M. Smith, pastor of Ebenezer A. M. E. Zion Church, who spoke at the college vespers hour last Sunday.

Mrs. F. A. Clayton outlined in detail the life of Prof. William Burns Paterson and the early days of the "State Normal School" (now State Teachers' College) in a brief address before the assembled students, alumni and friends celebrating Founders Day of the college. Other highlights of the Wednesday afternoon program were a flower tribute to the memory of Prof. William Beverly, a statement of the occasion by President Trenholm, and a few remarks by Mr. W. B. Paterson, son of the founder. Mr. Paterson praised the progress of the college in carrying out the ideals held by its founder. 2-14-44

President Trenholm, Dr. Trigg, and Messrs. Brooks and DeCosta represented the college at a special program honoring the 25th anniversary of Mrs. Anna P. Ellis as Jeannes teacher of Hale County. 2-14-44

The college basketball team closes its home schedule with games here Friday and Saturday with Morris Brown and Knoxville.

Negro History Week

This coming week is Negro History week. All churches, schools and various organizations will be celebrating this very important week. This week was organized in 1926 by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in an effort to better inform the public of the contributions made by Negroes and how American life has been influenced by it.

It is hoped that an article will be in this paper each day during this week. A Negro History Week broadcast will be presented from station WGTC, Greenville, each day Monday through Thursday at 6:15. "I Too Sing America," a radio skit reorganized specially for radio by Mrs. E. B. Graves of Pitt County Training School at Grimesland will be presented from station WRRF by the Dramatic Club of the same school which is sponsoring also the program from the station in Greenville. Negro History Quiz will be conducted at the Pitt County Training School next Friday at 1 o'clock in which, as a result of classroom elimination, a student from each home room class will participate.

The writer of this column will speak at the following places during this week's celebration. At the Pactolus School Monday at 11 o'clock. At the Winterville High School at 11:55 o'clock Friday. He is scheduled to speak again at the Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, N. C., in which he will conduct a forum. He will also conduct a forum for the Baptist Student Union of the East Carolina Teachers College in the very near future. Washington, N. C.

Negro History Week

This week we are honoring an old faithful citizen who died some weeks ago and was sent from Pennsylvania where the funeral was held to his home town in this city. Mr. John Bragg lived to the ripe old age of 65 and was very active prior to his death. He confessed religion at the age of 15 and later became a deacon of his church, an office which he held until his death. He is survived by his wife, four sons and one daughter, a sister and a brother, a number of grandchildren and many other kindreds. The funeral was held at the St. John Baptist Church, with the Rev. Mc. Windley officiating.

Sgt. Hermon Eason

Friday night at the Boy Scout banquet due recognition was given to Sgt. Hermon Eason, former Scoutmaster of Troop 18, for his services here in scouting. He is now serving somewhere in the Pacific. He is also a recipient of the coveted Scoutmaster Service Key, about the first of his race in this section to receive such an award. The entire group stood at rapt attention in recognition of his service.

New Orleans ... Picayune
February 12, 1944

DILLARD TO OBSERVE NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

Dr. Ira DeA. Reid, professor of sociology at Atlanta university, will speak at Dillard university Sunday at 4:30 p. m. in observance of Negro History Week. A. W. Dent, president, announced Friday. The Negro History Week program also includes the presentation of three one act plays of Negro life by the Dillard Players Guild at 8:15 p. m. Friday, February 18, at the university.

PM-New York, N.Y. 2-9-44

As a step toward stamping out intolerance, Gov. Dewey has proclaimed Feb. 13-20 as Negro History Week and urged all citizens to observe the occasion "in appropriate manner."

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

Feb. 27 to March 4 was Negro History week and in celebration of the occasion the Mississippi Enterprise, a newspaper published at Jackson for Mississippi Negroes, issued a special edition in which S. M. Harvey said editorially,

"In giving to our readers this, our Sixth Annual Negro History Week edition, we not only contribute to activities and achievements of the Negro who, during a short span of years, has made remarkable and meritorious progress, but we also give to them a testimony of the spirit of confidence, good-will and cooperation that **really exists** between the white and black Mississippian, a spirit that will grow better. . . . As in the past years, this special issue is to prove to our readers that the Negro can get the hearty support of practically every white individual or business, **when he brings to them a worthwhile program or project.**

". . . We will admit that there are many conditions existing in Mississippi that are not what we would have them be. We admit that many of the things that people of other sections say about us are true. We admit that we are in great need of increased educational opportunities. We admit that our teachers are poorly paid and were we to go on, we could find thousands of other conditions of which to complain. But sitting down complaining will never bring an end to any of the deplorable conditions mentioned above. **Neither will people of other sections help us to better our conditions. It is utterly impossible for groups hundreds of miles away who know absolutely nothing about us, who live in a world entirely different from ours, to solve our problems. We are here in Mississippi to live, to die and to leave for our children a heritage of opportunities greater than those we have— of better religious, educational and political advantages to be found, not in foreign lands, but in MISSISSIPPI. We who are accumulating land in Mississippi expect our children to get the benefit of this land. All in all, Mississippi is our state, our home, and it would be well if we'd remember the words of the great Booker Washington when he said, 'To those of my race who depend on bettering their conditions in a foreign land or who underestimate the importance of cultivating friendly relations with the Southern white man who is their next door neighbor, I would say, Cast down your bucket where you are— cast it down in making friends in every manly way of the people of all races by whom we are surrounded.' "**

These are words of wisdom. Indeed, the Mississippi Enterprise is a very creditable paper and the Negroes of the state should feel proud of it. In the years to come we predict that it will grow in usefulness to members of the Negro race and prove a boon to all of Mississippi.

Editor Harvey has wisely pointed out that talk on the part of people of other sections puts no additional educational facilities at their disposal. If one of the would-be benefactors of the Negro race would spend just one tenth the money on a bus operated exclusively for Negroes that he does breath on their being forced to the back of Southern buses, the Negro might benefit. Talk, it must be remembered, is at its cheapest when it prattles of conditions of which it has not actual knowledge.

We are proud of the long way the Negroes of Mississippi have come. In any undertaking that is, as their editor pointed out, worthwhile, we stand at all times ready and willing to cooperate. The fact that we happen to believe in segregation of the races in no way alters our sympathetic regard for the Negroes of this state: We simply refuse to lie about it when it comes down to the question of wanting to turn our small communities over to them, even if they were worthy of the responsibility.

Speaking personally, we frequently go the last mile in an effort to turn out printing for our Negro customers, particularly if we feel they cannot get a reasonable price charged them, and whenever they need help, there's not a one in the community who doesn't know where to come— but give up our white institutions to them or mix with them socially? Not on your life, and the Southern Negro wants that not one bit more than we do! Ask him!

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
February 17, 1944

Negro History Week Being Observed From Feb. 13 to 20

WASHINGTON, Monday — To my readers who live in New York city, and incidentally to those who live in other cities where a like situation may exist, I should like to suggest that anyone who has a spare room in his house should keep in touch with the Officers' Service committee. In New York city, the office is in the Hotel Commodore, and there is a housing desk run by the committee, where rooms and apartments are procured for officers and their families. It is difficult for a woman to arrive in a big city, expecting to meet her husband, sometimes with a child or two, only to find that he has not arrived or that he has already sailed away.

Big cities are crowded these days. People with limited incomes can not always afford hotel prices and I know that this particular service has been of great help to many men and to their families.

Of course, there are many other things that are done for the officers. They can procure lists of places of entertainment and theater tickets at half price. They can get information on many subjects and I am sure arrangements can be made for any particular thing they wish to do.

This housing service, however, has especially appealed to me. In New York city it is headed by Mrs. Herbert Carlebach, and I hear that her difficulties are very great at the present time. So if you have a spare room at any time, let her know, or put yourself on her list so she can call you and find out if you have any

free space when she is looking for accommodations.

This is ~~negro~~ history week, from Feb. 13 to Feb. ~~20~~ inclusive. In Chicago, negro history is being taught in the schools. It seems to me that this might well be done in some of our other big cities to give some background of knowledge about our largest minority group in this country.

On Saturday I went with the president to pay homage at the Lincoln memorial, and we were reminded that this is the eleventh year that the president has attended the ceremonies. The most colorful part is the sight of the waving flags coming down the steps, with the great statue of Lincoln sitting so calmly on its pedestal, looking down on the men who revere his memory, but who have not yet achieved the greatness for their country which was Lincoln's ideal.

In the afternoon I went to the Navy yard with my husband. He spoke over the radio at the ceremonies attending the turning over of an American destroyer escort to the French. The ship's officers and men presented me with a lovely bouquet of red roses. Mrs. John Roosevelt and I went on board for a glance at the quarters.

SOUTH CAROLINA

White Supremacy

South Carolina's unreconstructed House of Representatives last week was still fighting the War Between the States. The House resolved: TIME-Chicago, Ill.

"Whereas, the stench of scalawag and carpetbagger days is too strong and fresh in our recollection to now retrace our steps in that racial direction . . . we indignantly and vehemently denounce . . . all organizations seeking 3-13-44 *. . . co-mingling of the [white and Negro] races upon any basis of equality as un-American . . . and solemnly pledge our lives to maintaining [white supremacy] whatever the cost. We demand that henceforth the damned agitators of the North leave the South alone."*

Those who looked beneath the bloody shirt soon learned what the waving was about. A move is afoot to "equalize" the pay of South Carolina's Negro school teachers. Negro teachers get an average of $70 a month; whites, $90.

The Furriers' Exhibit

NEW Masses-NY 3-21-44

LAST week the Joint Board of the Fur Dressers and Dyers, with the help of the cooperative gallery, Artist Associates, set up an exhibition of paintings and drawings in the foyer of the Joint Board's offices in New York. Got together as part of the observation of Negro History Week, the show undertook to portray the "Negro in American Life and Art," and ranged from a large oil ("Southern Terror") by James Turnbull, showing two Negroes hiding from the hunting Klan, to a simple head of Frederick Douglass and the decorative silk screen prints of Hugo Gellert's illustrations for *The Century of the Common Man*. There were bold sketches for a mural at Hampton Institute of Harriet Tubman and Peter Still (reproduced in NEW MASSES, March 7) by Charles White; an oil of Lincoln by DeGrange; "Mid-day Meal," by Zoltan Hecht; "Rations," by Mervin Jules; Sid Gotcliffe's "International Brigadier"; a portrait of Marian Anderson by Ladislas Segy, and several score other works in varying styles and media.

In the center of the room was a box for ballots, where visitors might vote for their first choice picture, were asked for their criticisms and whether they wanted more exhibitions. A head of Frederick Douglass by Daniel Koerner had the most first choice votes at the time I visited the exhibition, with Mervin Jules', Zoltan Hecht's, and James Turnbull's pictures following closely.

The comments with the ballots are often extensive, and read us lessons on both the uses of culture and the desire for it outside the little world of sophisticates. One of those who chose the Douglass head wrote: "It depicts the native determination of Douglass as he really was," and adds, "It brings to the average person a better appreciation of art." Another writes, "I like the pictures of Joe Louis and Paul Robeson because to me they reflect the strength and maturity of the new Negro. These exhibits are invaluable and we should have more." One chose James Turnbull's "Southern Terror" because of "its stark drama and its truth"; another, Hecht's "Mid-day Meal," because "It shows a group of Negroes enjoying noontime lunch like all free people can enjoy." Another found it "reminds us what freedom means to all of us," and added, "Yes, more exhibits." One had "no criticism." "I think the workers should see more of these," he wrote, "and they would understand how the Negro had to suffer and still does." 3-21-44

Not all the comments are political. A card suggesting that the exhibit be toured "throughout the USA" remarked that "Charles White's dynamic concentration of form is overwhelming." Nor are they all complimentary. One wrote, "Very interesting. Shows the workingman's ambitions. Frankly speaking I really do not like the pictures. Some are good. Some are to the extreme so unreal nowadays. For example, one is not real at all. Matter of fact it doesn't look like a person—more like an animal. Matter of fact I like art, but something beautiful, also with a good b[illegible]ground. Most of the pictures made me feel sorry for the Negro as a whole." 3-21-44

These are only a few of the comments, but they sketch for us what can be done and what needs to be done. There should be more such exhibits where busy people of all walks of life who have no time to make pilgrimages to the marble corridors of the museums or the carpeted galleries of Fifty-seventh Street can see them. And it should not happen in the future that when enterprising people set about such an undertaking as the "Negro in American Life and Art," they should be really put to it to find the material from which to make it.

VIRGINIA SHULL.

"I'LL tell you a little story," my friend said, "about something that happened on my route." New Masses-N.Y. 2-29-44

Dinner was finished and we had settled back for talk. The conversation had turned to the question of discrimination against Negroes. My friend's wife, the mother of a small baby and hence quite conscious of childhood problems, had remarked that a Negro child must have a difficult time adjusting himself to a white-dominated world. One of the party had disagreed and questioned whether the disadvantage of being black in a white world was felt at so early an age. It was at that point that my friend told his little story.

AS YOU KNOW—he began—I drive a laundry truck. My route is in a Negro neighborhood, a poor neighborhood and crowded with kids. You know how kids are when a truck pulls in the block. I have to shoo them off so they won't get hurt.

One day, I shooed off a little Negro kid, about seven years old. I started up the truck and drove up the block. When I got out of the truck, the kid was right there on the sidewalk. He had beaten the truck up the block. I drove off again, and the kid trailed me. He was so persistent I let him ride with me. Well, we got to be pretty good friends, and he used to wait for me on the you," I said. "You almost fell out."

One day, as we went around a corner, the door on the kid's side opened. I grabbed him so he wouldn't fall out. "It's a good thing I grabbed you," I said. "You almost fell out."

"Yes sir!" the kid agreed. "If I fell out, I woulda cracked my head."

"Sure," I replied, kidding him. "Then I'd have to take you to the hospital and get you a new head." 2-29-44

He looked at me in wonder. "If you break your head, kin you git a new one at the hospital?"

I kept a straight face. "Absolutely."

The kid said nothing for a few seconds. Then, looking straight ahead, he asked, "Kin I git any kinda head I want?" I was weaving in and out of traffic, and I guess I was too busy to see what he was getting at. Anyway, I kept up the game, and said, "Why sure." He turned his glance from the road. The kid looked up at me—I can still see how he looked—and he asked me, "Kin I git a *white* head?"

Negro History Week

The Worker-New York N.Y. 1-30-44

THE Council of the City of New York has unanimously adopted a resolution which requests the Mayor to have schools, libraries "and other public institutions" conduct proper observance of Negro History Week, from Feb. 13 to 19. Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., introduced this first resolution of its kind in the Council's history.

Negro History Week, now a national institution (being also annually proclaimed by the New York Governor and the Governors of several other states) was instituted in 1926 by the Association for Study of Negro Life and History. Negro people and their progressive friends, for 19 years, have observed the week by special articles on such historic Negro figures as Crispus Attucks, first American to fall in the Revolution of 1776; Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, anti-slavery fighters; John Brown Russworm, editor of our first Negro newspaper; Granville T. Woods, electrical inventor, whose researches helped make the third rail (and the subway) possible. And so on, through thousands of cases. 1-30-44

Negro History Week is far more, today, than the Negro's reviewing his past and trying thereby to inspire himself for impending tasks. It is today an occasion on which all anti-fascists may the better equip themselves for the imminent finish fight against fascism and for the people's peace which will follow the people's victory.

The celebration this year will revolve around the Negro in this nation's wars. The subject is immensely rich, and there is excellent material available on it. The Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and Art, 135th St. branch of the New York Public Library, offers New York's schools, other libraries, museums, hospitals, street cars and subways both the material and the help in displaying it. Mayor LaGuardia is expected, of course, in conformity with the Council's resolution, to take appropriate action.

Negro History Week At Delaware State

Journal & Guide-Norfolk Va.

DOVER, Del.—The division of social sciences at Delaware State College sponsored Negro History Week at the institution. A special assembly program was dedicated to the struggles and achievements of Negroes in helping build various civilizations.

A special program on Thursday evening was organized around the theme, "We Are Americans, Too," and consisted of music, a pantomime, poetry, and talks outlining the contributions of Negroes to the music, drama, poetry and other fields of endeavor. 3-4-44

In connection with the campus celebration, teachers spoke in Dover and other points of the Del-Mar-Va peninsula on Negro History.